14
SUZUKA
KOUJI SEO

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14
Kouji Seo

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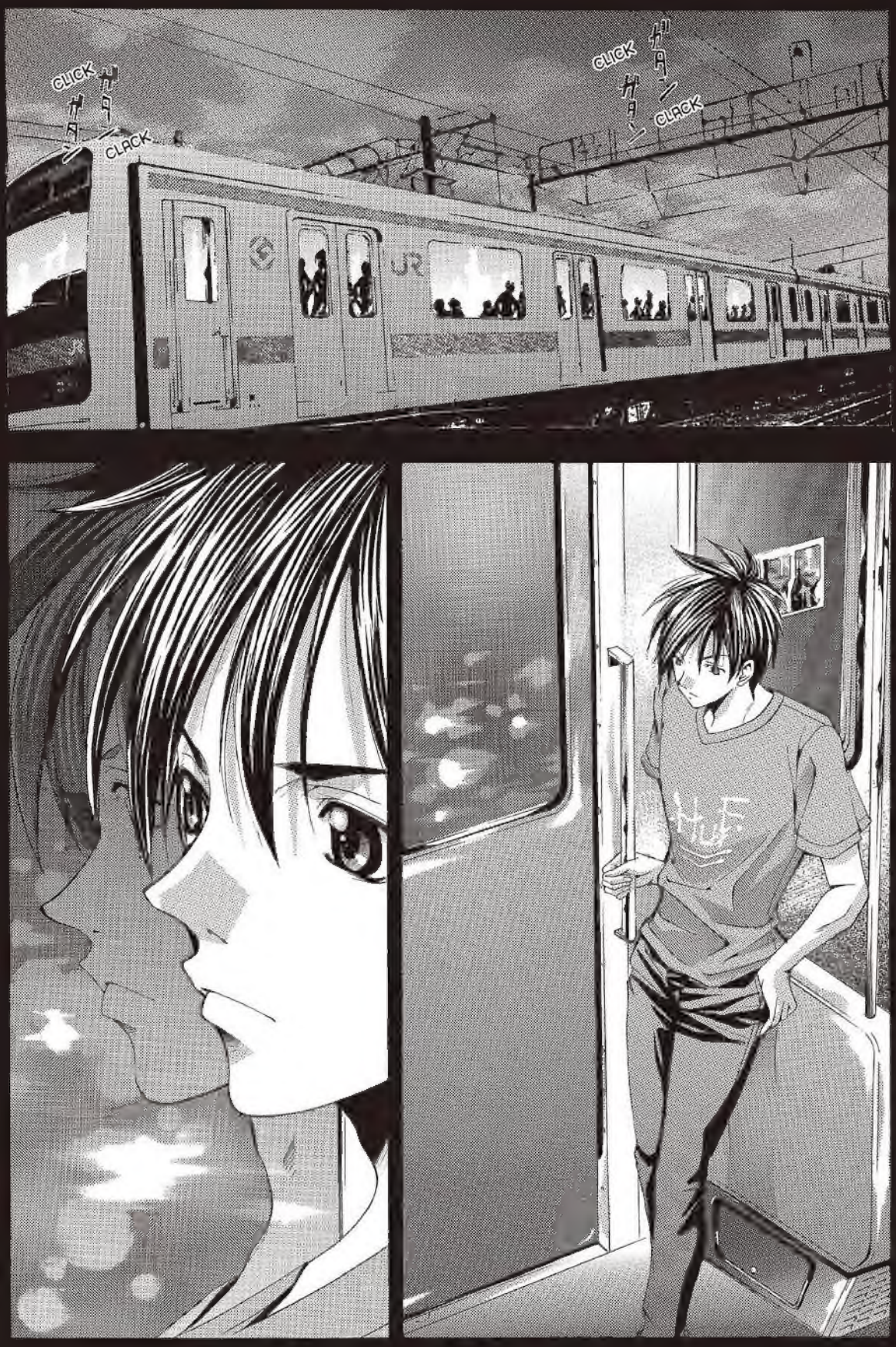
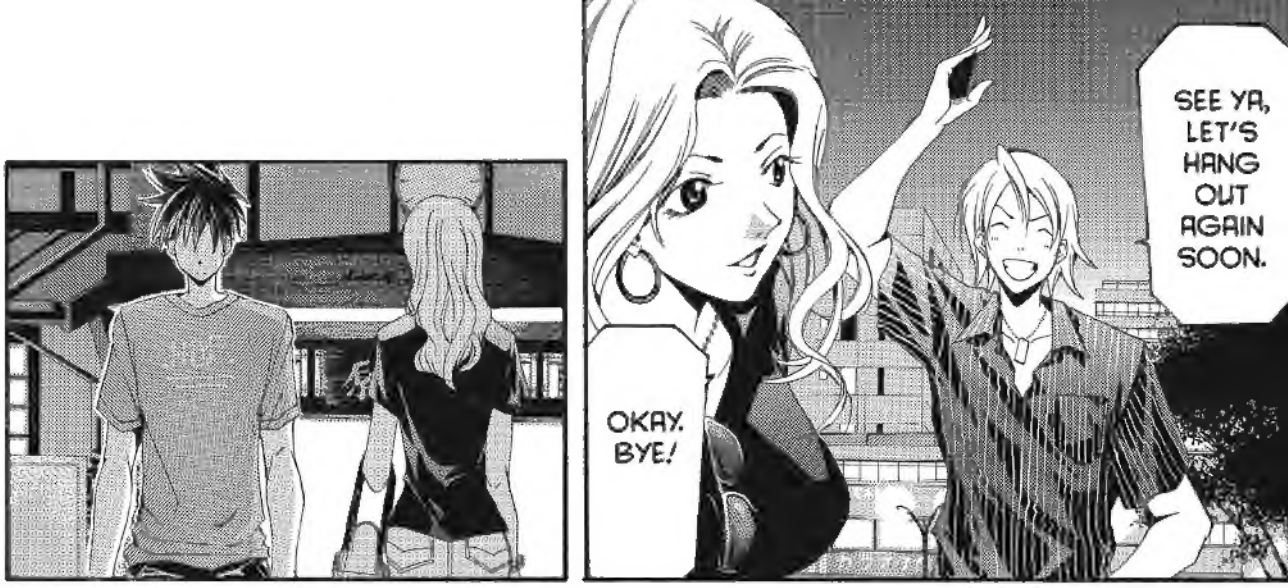

CLICK
ガタン
CLACK
CLICK
ガタン
CLACK

SUZUKA
#117 WE MEET AGAIN

HARAJUKU STATION
HARAJUKU STATION
KONN


SEE YA, LET'S HANG OUT AGAIN SOON.
OKAY. BYE!

HUH?

HEY, YASU-NOBU...
YAMATO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH?

I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO.
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SHE DID? . . . AND?
. . . . . .
HEY, WHAT EVER HAPPENED WITH YUI-CHAN?
DID SHE COME BY YOUR APART-MENT?
CAFÉ DU NOA
B1 · 1F
YEAH . . . SHE DID.
WHAT HAPPENED ?

HOTEL
NOTH-
ING HAP-
PENED
.....

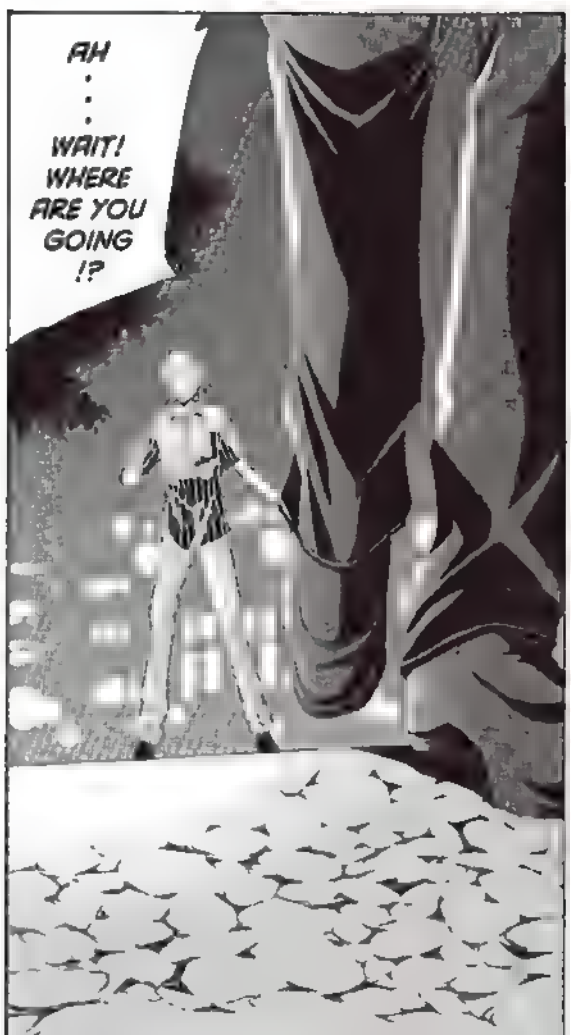
AH
OH
OKAY
THEN

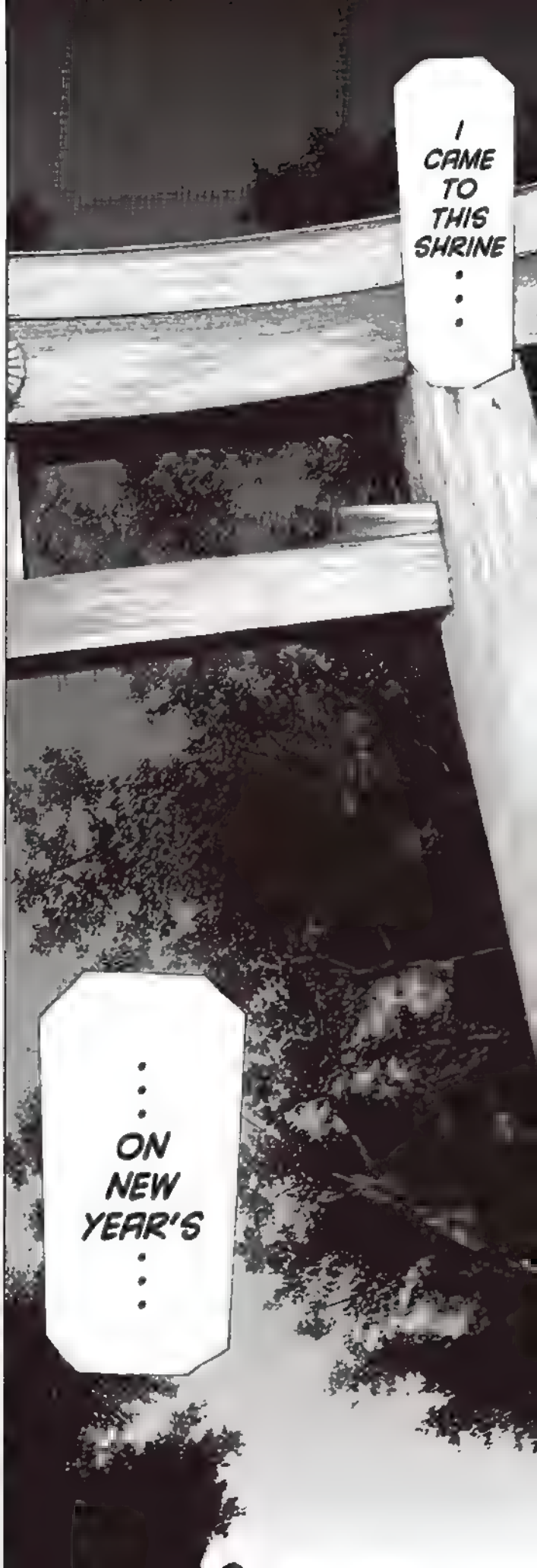
WHAT
OH,
THIS?
IT'S MY
PAYCHECK.
I WAS
GONNA
USE IT
TO BUY A
COMPUTER,
BUT

HUH?
WHAT'S
THAT IN
YOUR
HAND?

I'M NOT BUYING ANY-THING
Y-YOU WERE "GONNA" SO ARE YOU GONNA BUY SOMETHING DIFFERENT NOW?
CAFE DU NOA
YOU SHOULD GO TO AKIBA IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ELEC-TRONICS.
THEN COME SPEND IT WITH ME!
LET'S GO TO A SOAP LAND !!
HEY, WAIT
I WAS JUST KID-DING
DO YOU WANT TO GO CHECK OUT TAKESHITA STREET? YOU'VE GOT TIME, RIGHT?
THEY'RE SHOOTING A FILM OR SOMETHING OVER THERE RIGHT NOW
WHAT? WHAT'S UP?

UH-HUH...
SO?


AH...
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?


I CAME TO THIS SHRINE...
...ON NEW YEAR'S...

.....
YAMATO-KUN...
WHEN DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH ME?
I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU...
...THE MOMENT I FIRST SAW YOU.

I CAME HERE TO PRAY.
...THAT I COULD BE WITH YOU NEXT YEAR TOO, YAMATO-KUN.

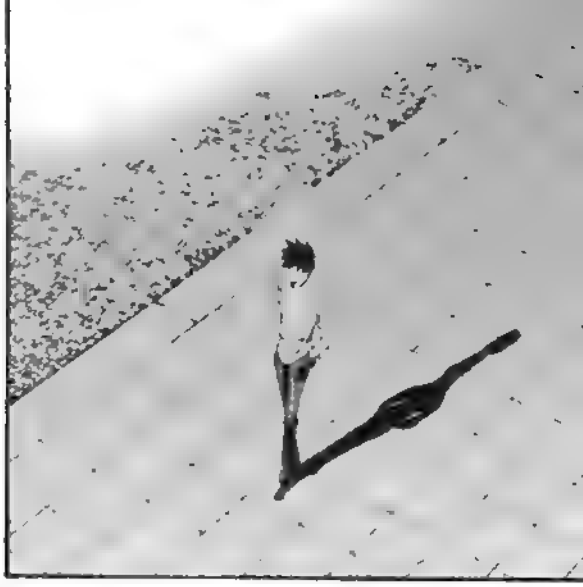
I KIND OF KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN...
WHAT?

AT THAT MOMENT...
I JUST KNEW THAT ASAHINA WAS GOING TO LEAVE ME.

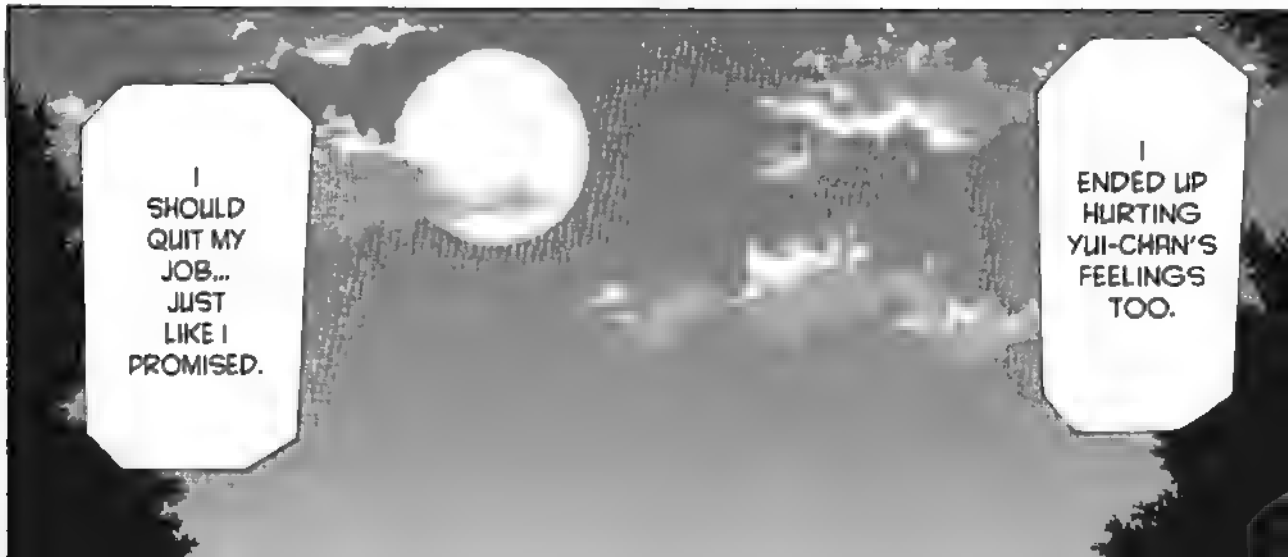
I GUESS YOU'VE GOTTA OFFER THE GODS MORE THAN A FIVE YEN COIN
IF YOU WANT YOUR WISH TO COME TRUE.
WAIT
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !?

MAY TOMORROW BE A NICE, SUNNY DAY!
IS THIS ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE MY WISH COME TRUE?
SOMETIMES I JUST DON'T GET YOU...
I CAN'T GET IT BACK OUT!!
JESUS!! ARE YOU CRAZY? WHAT A WASTE!!
JUST LEAVE IT. IT'S AN OFFER-ING.
PLEASE MAKE POLYGAMY LEGAL IN JAPAN.
CLAP
CLAP
HEY, GOD... I'VE GOT A WISH, TOO...

I CAN'T BE MOPING AROUND LIKE THIS FOREVER. I NEED TO MOVE FORWARD!



...TO FORGET ABOUT ASAHINA.
IT'S TIME...

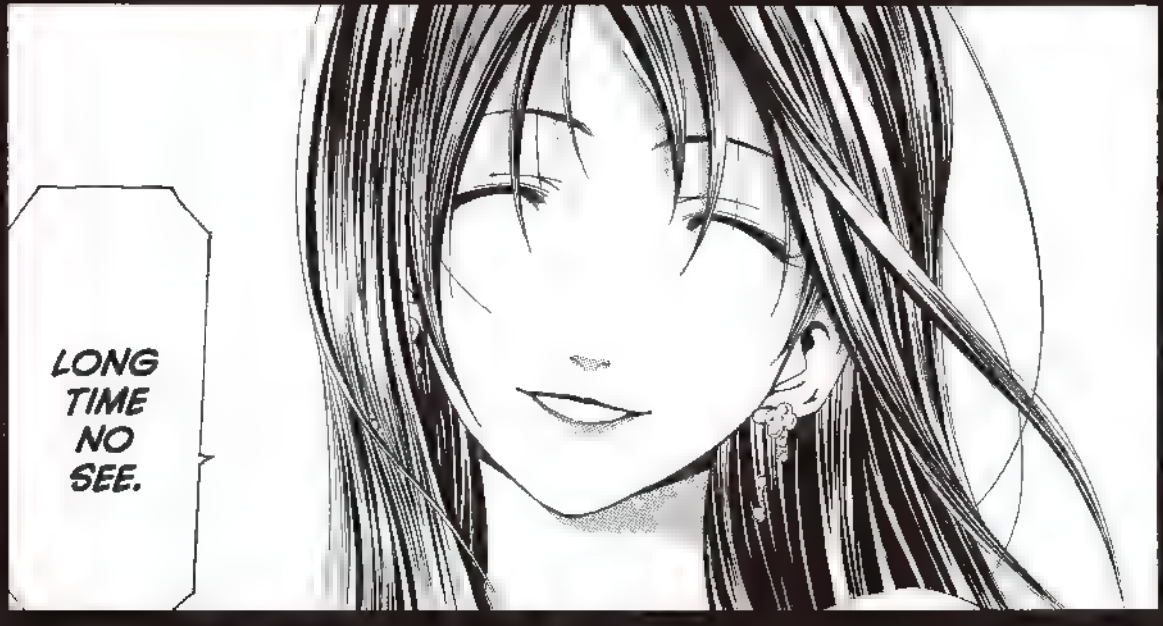

I SHOULD QUIT MY JOB... JUST LIKE I PROMISED.
I ENDED UP HURTING YUI-CHAN'S FEELINGS TOO.

NO, I'M FINE. I LIVE CLOSE BY. I'LL JUST TAKE THE TRAIN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YEAH, GOOD WORK, TODAY! DO YOU NEED A RIDE HOME?
PAUSE
AH...?
I RECOGNIZE THAT SCENT.
AKIT-SUKI-KUN?
WHAT?

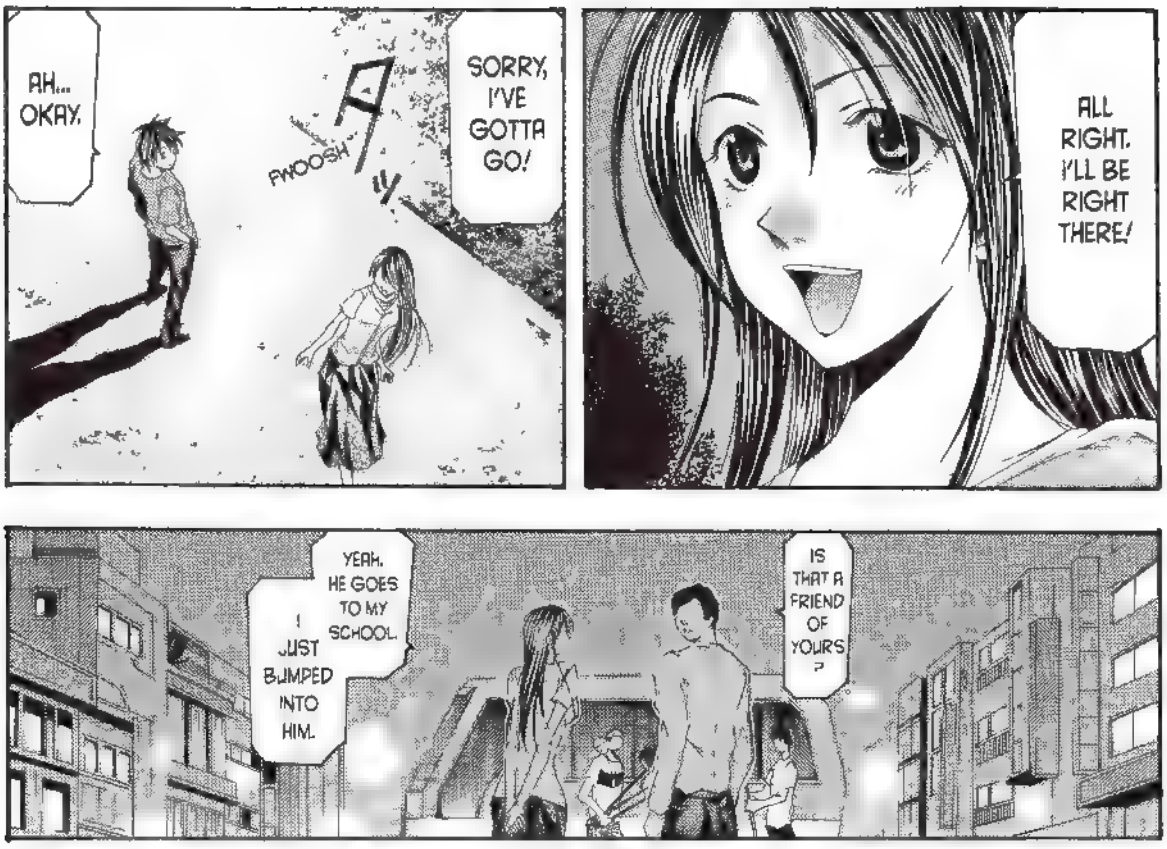
HO
HONOKA-CHAN?

SUZUKA

#118 SOPHISTICATION

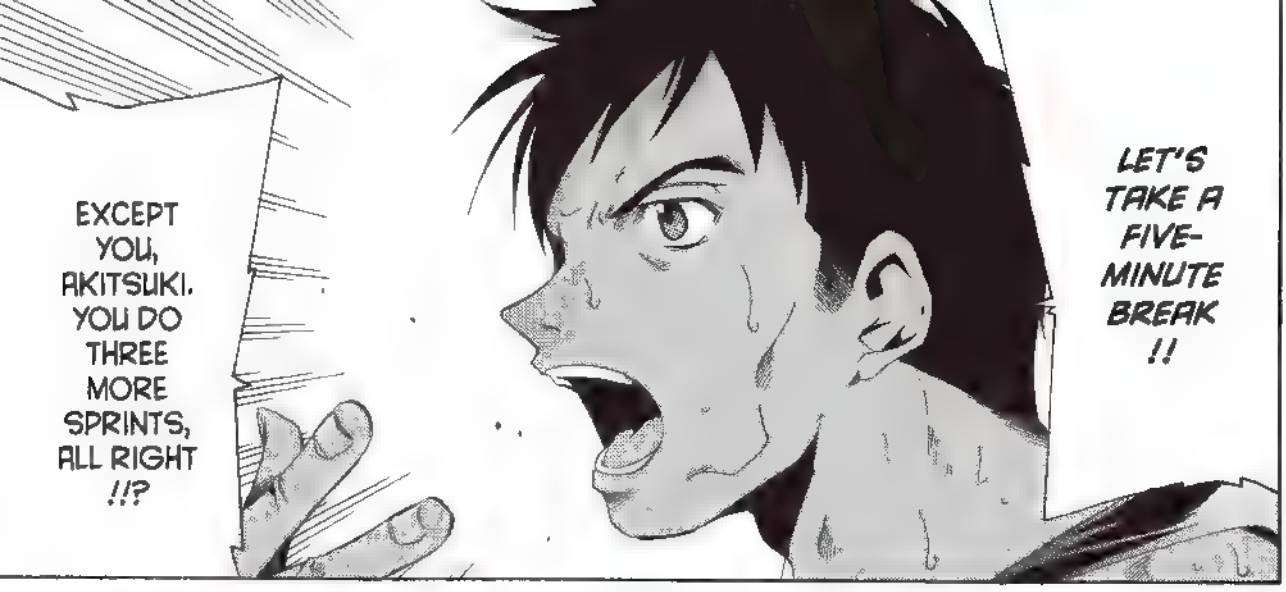


WHAT ABOUT YOU? WERE YOU... WORKING ?
YEAH. WE JUST FINISHED SHOOTING. I'M ON MY WAY HOME.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING HERE?
OH... I WAS JUST HANGING OUT WITH HATTORI.
HEH, I'M NOT THAT FAMOUS YET.
WOW. IT MUST BE TOUGH BEING A CELEB. YOU WORK TILL SO LATE.
HEY, HONOKA-CHAN !
BUT STILL . . .
SOMETIMES I GET A TINY, LITTLE PHOTO IN A MAGAZINE, BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT.
AH . . . YES !?
SORRY, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING . . .


AH... OKAY.
WHOOSH
SORRY, I'VE GOTTA GO!
ALL RIGHT. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
I JUST BUMPED INTO HIM.
YEAH. HE GOES TO MY SCHOOL.
IS THAT A FRIEND OF YOURS?

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HONOKA-CHAN...
SHE LOOKS PRETTY BUSY.
...IS A REAL CELEB.

SHE'S SURROUNDED BY A BUNCH OF GROWN-UPS. IT'S SO WEIRD
HEY, YAMATO. DON'T LEAVE ME LIKE THAT! YOU SCARED ME
AH SORRY I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT YOU
SO, DO YOU WANNA GO TO KARA-OKE?
YOUR TREAT
ARE YOU KIDDING? I DON'T HAVE A CENT LEFT


LET'S TAKE A FIVE-MINUTE BREAK !!
EXCEPT YOU, AKITSUKI. YOU DO THREE MORE SPRINTS, ALL RIGHT !!?

CALM DOWN, KINUGASA SENPAI
FWUPPA
WELL, THERE'S A LOT GOING ON IN MY LIFE R GHT NOW!!
COME ON!! YOU COULDN'T EVEN GET INTO THE TOP SIXTEEN AT THE I.H. MEET, AND YOU CALL YOURSELF OUR TEAM'S ACE IN THE HOLE!

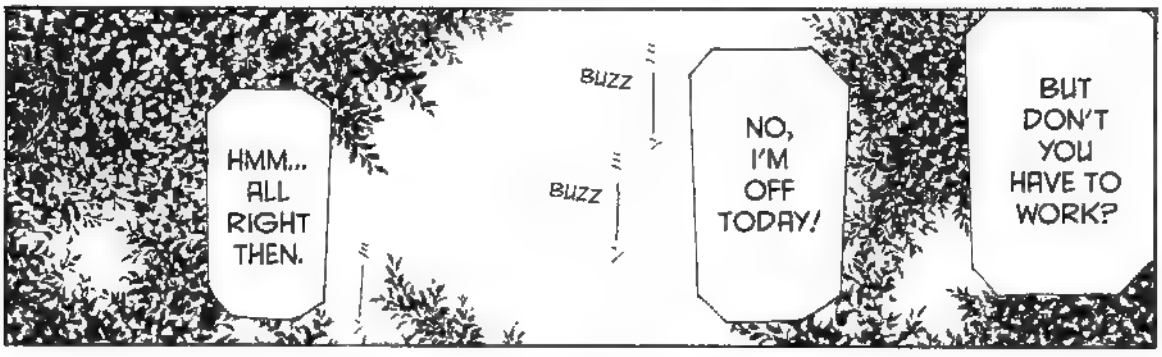
WHAT ? WHY !!?
THIS SUCKS!!

OKAY, OKAY . . .
DON'T BE SUCH A WUSS !!
JUST SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND RUN !!

UH-OH!! JUST KIDDING !!
I HEARD YOU !!
TCH...
HE'S ONLY BULLYING ME LIKE THIS, BECAUSE HE'S A TOTAL NOBODY IN COLLEGE.
TCH
STUPID SUN-BURNED GORILLA!
MAN... I GAVE THE GODS 100,000* YEN AND THIS IS ALL I GET?
YOU COULD AT LEAST BLESS ME WITH SOME NICE WEATHER, GEEZ.
¥1000
PLOP
NO SLACKING OFF, AKITSUKI !
OKAY !!

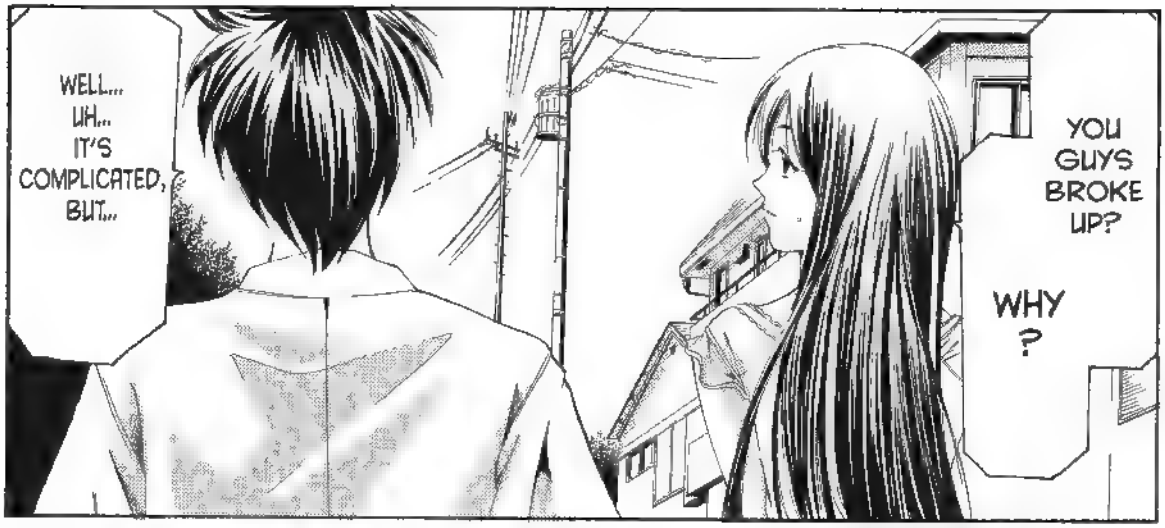
CLOP
PHEW...I THOUGHT PRACTICE WOULD NEVER END.
TIME TO GO HOME AND RELAX
WHAT?
WORKING HARD?
HERE YOU GO...
NO SUMMER VACATION FOR YOU, HUH?

WELL, YOU KNOW...WHEN WE RAN INTO EACH OTHER THAT DAY, WE DIDN'T REALLY GET A CHANCE TO TALK.
AND I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN YOU SINCE WE BECAME SOPHO-MORES.
SO WHAT'S UP? WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN?


BUT DON'T YOU HAVE TO WORK?
NO, I'M OFF TODAY!
BUZZ
BUZZ
HMM... ALL RIGHT THEN.

W-WHAT YOU DO NOW IS SO COOL. MODELING AND STUFF...
DO YOU HAVE CRAZY FANS THAT FOLLOW YOU AROUND?
OH, THAT HASN'T HAPPENED TO ME YET.
THE ONLY PEOPLE I TALK TO ARE THE ONES I WORK WITH.

HUH? AH... YEAH...
AH... I HEARD THAT ASAHINA-SAN WAS GOING ON A TRACK AND FIELD STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.
W-WELL... I'M NOT REALLY WORKING THAT HARD.
I REALLY SUCKED AT THE I.H. AND ASAHINA AND I BROKE UP.
THAT'S SO AMAZING...
AND IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE TRAINING PRETTY HARD, TOO.
I'D BETTER WORK HARDER OR YOU GUYS'LL LEAVE ME BEHIND.
.....
WHAT?

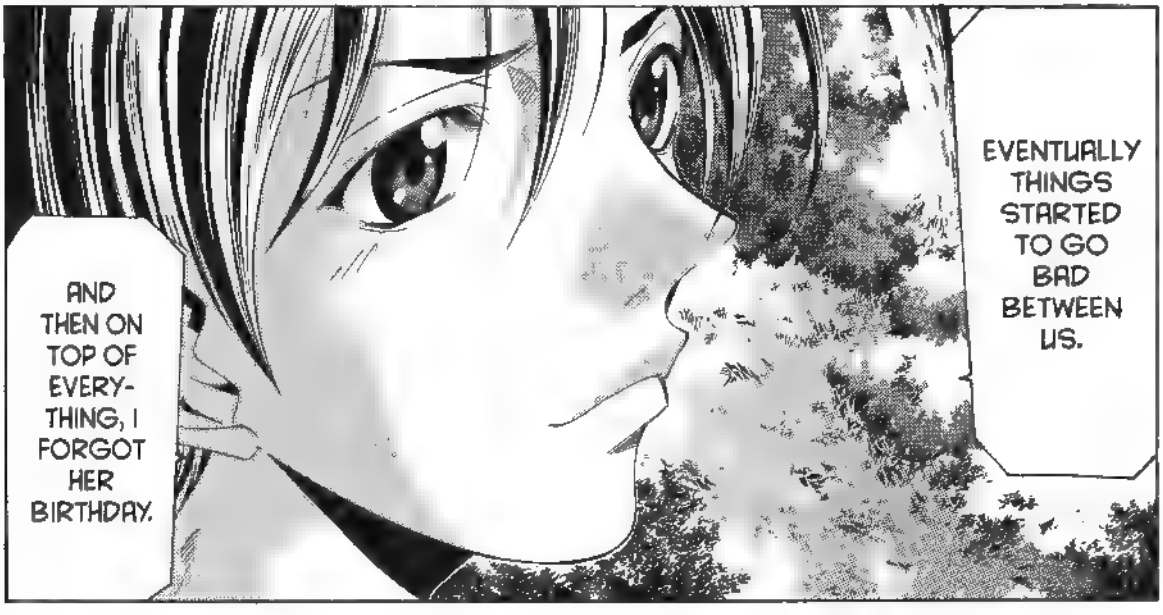

YOU GUYS BROKE UP?
WHY?
WELL... UH... IT'S COMPLICATED, BUT...

HA HA...
WE DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT THAT FAR.

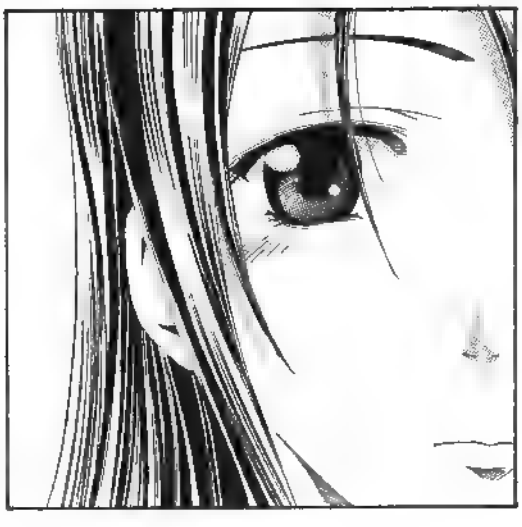
BECAUSE SHE WENT ABROAD?
YOU GUYS COULDN'T HANDLE THE LONG DISTANCE RELA-TIONSHIP THING?

HUH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
W-WELL...

I THOUGHT I WAS BEING A GOOD BOYFRIEND TO ASAHINA.
BUT IT TURNS OUT I'D ONLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT MYSELF.


EVENTUALLY THINGS STARTED TO GO BAD BETWEEN US.
AND THEN ON TOP OF EVERY-THING, I FORGOT HER BIRTHDAY.

AND SO... YOU GUYS BROKE UP?
WELL... IT WAS MORE LIKE SHE DUMPED ME.

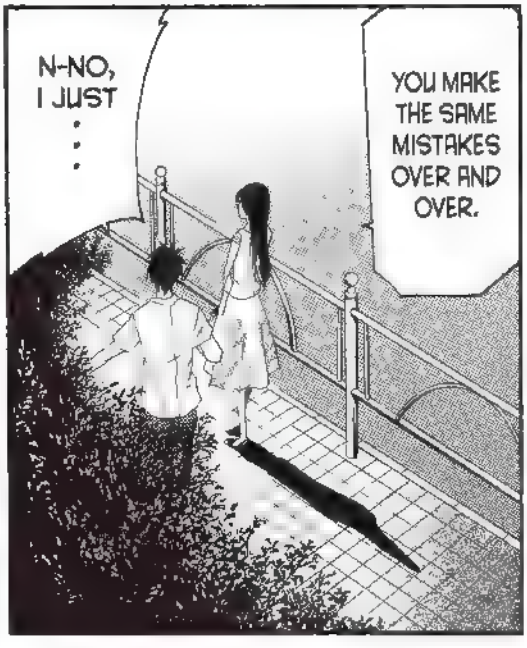


YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED...
...AT ALL.

WAIT...

WAIT...
YOU'RE RIGHT...

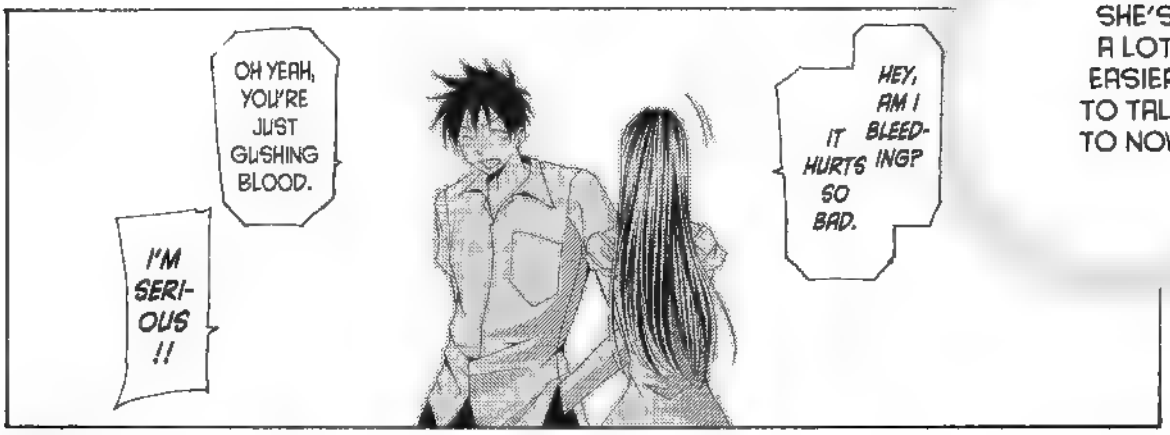
.....


N-NO, I JUST...
YOU MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES OVER AND OVER.

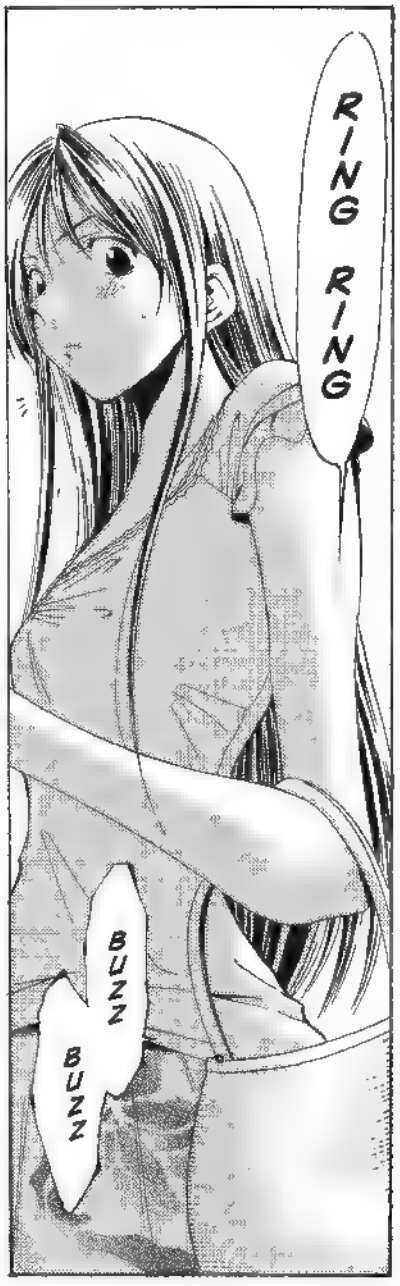
AH... NO... I WAS JUST...
GEEZ.
EVEN WHAT YOU'RE SAYING RIGHT NOW... I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE.
REALLY?
I WAS REALLY FRUSTRATED WHEN WE WERE GOING OUT.
YOU AND YOUR WISHY-WASHY ATTITUDE!
WHAT?
.....
JUST KIDDING!

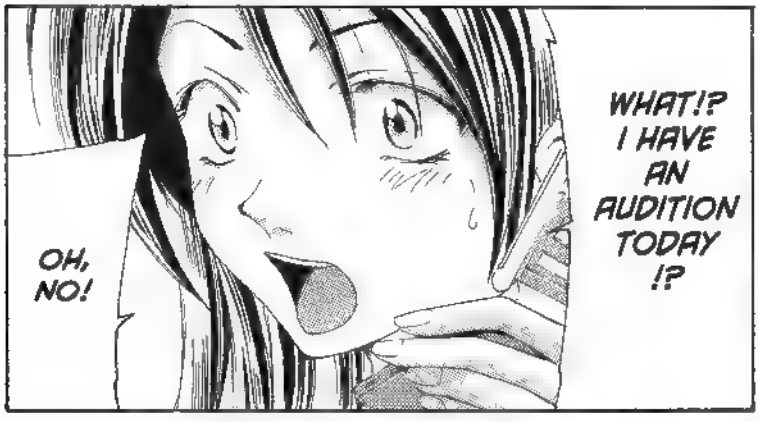
GEEZ...
!?
BOOM
GOD, YOU SCARED ME!
AH... A-ARE YOU OKAY?
.....
WELL... MAYBE I WASN'T KIDDING!
YOU'D BETTER WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
YEAH... I'M FINE.
OKAY, JUST SHUT UP!!

YOU'RE STILL AS . . .
CLUMSY AS EVER.
S- SHUT UP . . .
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LAUGH.
. . . . . .
ACTUALLY . . .
. . . SHE'S CHANGED . . .
. . . A LOT.


HEY, AM I BLEEDING?
IT HURTS SO BAD.
OH YEAH, YOU'RE JUST GUSHING BLOOD.
I'M SERIOUS !!
SHE'S A LOT EASIER TO TALK TO NOW.

I'M IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE RIGHT NOW.
HELLO, SAKURAI SPEAKING . . .


RING RING
BUZZ
BUZZ

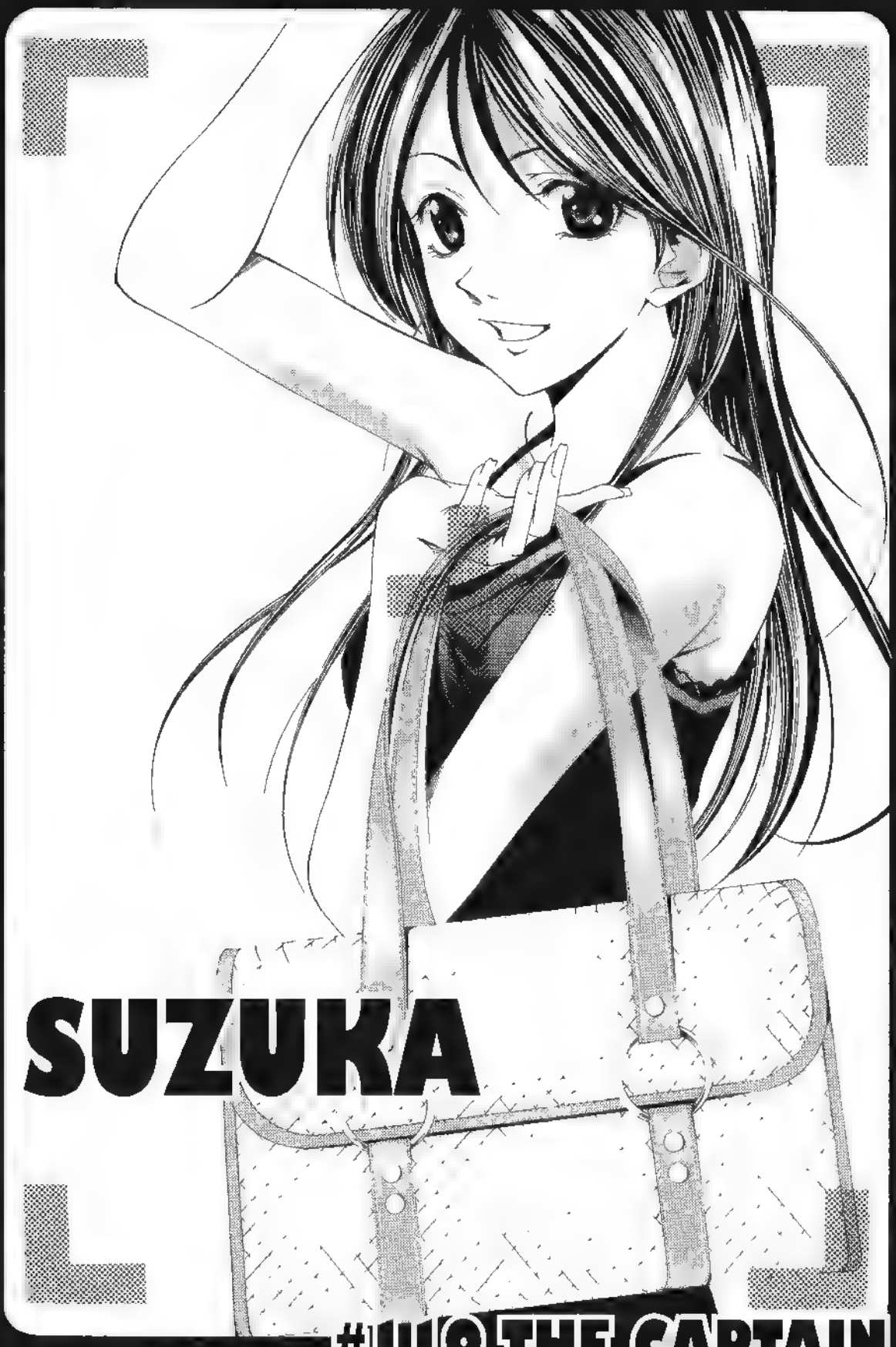

OH, NO!
WHAT!? I HAVE AN AUDITION TODAY !?

I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THAT!! OKAY, OKAY. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!!
LOOKS LIKE SHE FORGOT SOMETHING . . .

HUH!? O-OKAY...
TAKE CARE.
FWAP
SORRY ABOUT THAT...
DON'T WORRY. YOU'D BETTER GO.
YEAH...
WHAT...?
YOU KNOW, AKITSUKI-KUN...
...YOU LOOK REALLY GOOD.

HMM... SHE'S PROBABLY JUST BEING POLITE.
.....
FWOOSH
AH...
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
LOOKS LIKE AT LEAST ONE OF MY PRAYERS HAS BEEN ANSWERED.

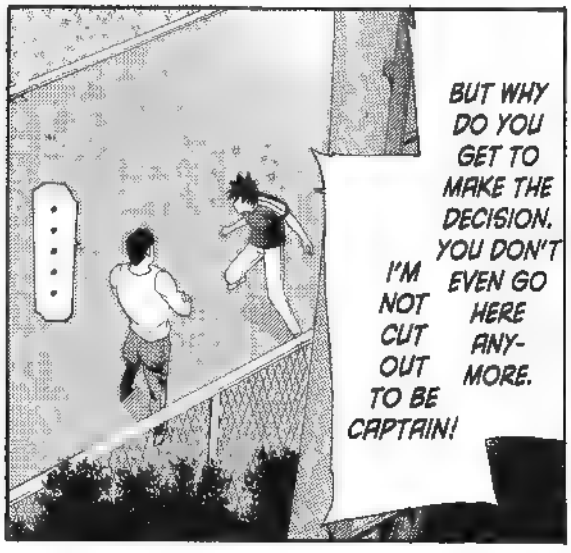
HONOKA SAKURAI
"NO SUBJECT"
TODAY I FIND OUT IF I GOT THE PART FROM THAT AUDITION. I'M SO NERVOUS! GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR PRACTICE. I KNOW YOU'RE WORKING HARD.
WELL, I'M REALLY NOT WORKING THAT HARD...
CLICK カチ
CLICK カチ
RIGHT... THE AUDI-TION...
SLAM
HONOKA-CHAN'S WORKING HARD, TOO.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? MORNING PRACTICE IS ABOUT TO START!
AH... ALRIGHT!
SWAP



SUZUKA

#119 THE CAPTAIN

WHAT !?
YOU WANT ME TO BE THE NEW CAPTAIN !?

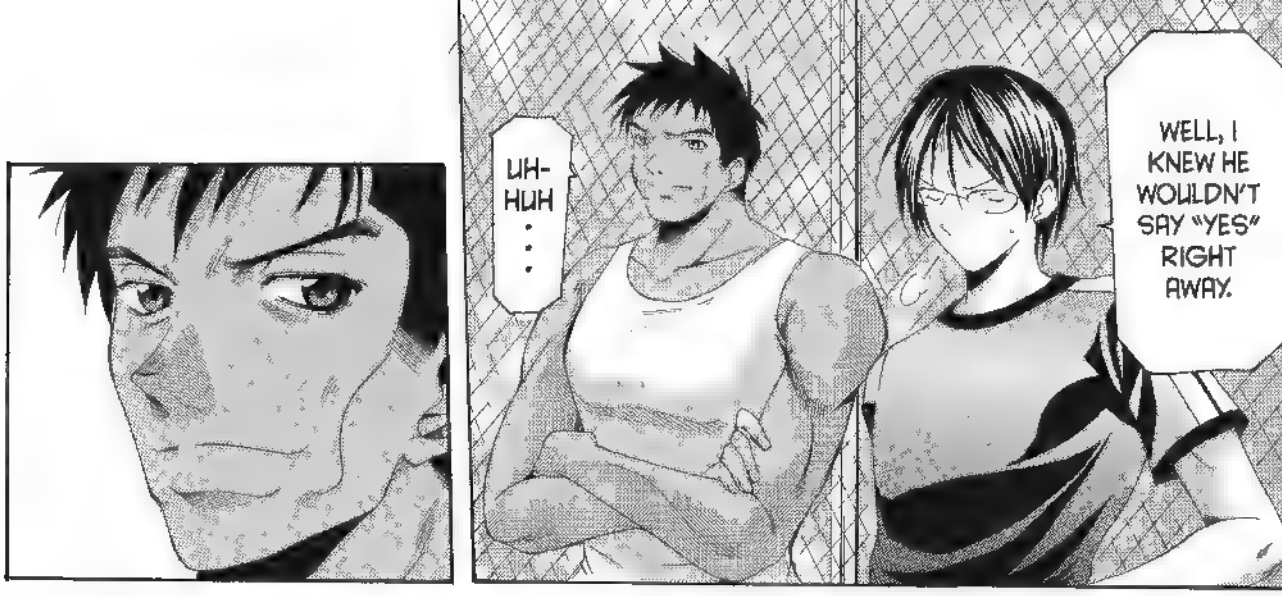

BUT WHY DO YOU GET TO MAKE THE DECISION. YOU DON'T EVEN GO HERE ANY-MORE.
I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE CAPTAIN!

THAT'S RIGHT... SO YOU'D BETTER WORK HARD, AKITSUKI.
YOU'LL BE LEADING THE TEAM STARTING NEXT YEAR.

HUH... THEN WHO...
TCH, IF THE DECISION WAS MINE, DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D CHOOSE YOU?

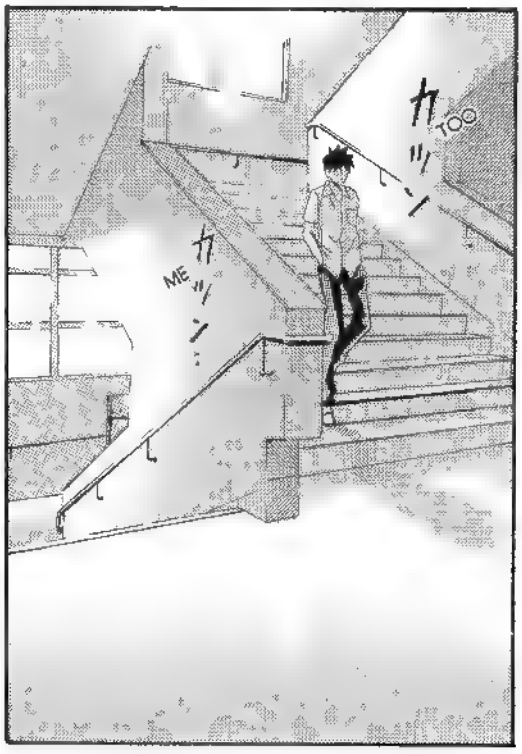
MIYAMOTO SENPAI?
IT WAS ME . . .
I HAVEN'T TOLD THE TEAM YET, BUT . . .
I REALLY WANT YOU TO DO THIS.
HE MADE IT INTO THE TOP EIGHT AT THE LAST I.H. AND . . .
KOBAYAKAWA IS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR TEAM CAPTAIN.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
I CAN'T DO IT! WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU CHOOSE ME!?

IT'S ALREADY DECIDED.
NO ONE CAN SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
SO, YOU'LL DO IT, AKITSUKI?
.....
.....
AKIT-SUKI!
GIVE ME SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT.


UH-HUH...
WELL, I KNEW HE WOULDN'T SAY "YES" RIGHT AWAY.

I HOPE HE'LL UNDER-STAND... HOW YOU FEEL.
YEAH.

ME, TEAM CAPTAIN?
HE'S GOTTA BE KID-DING.


TOO
ME

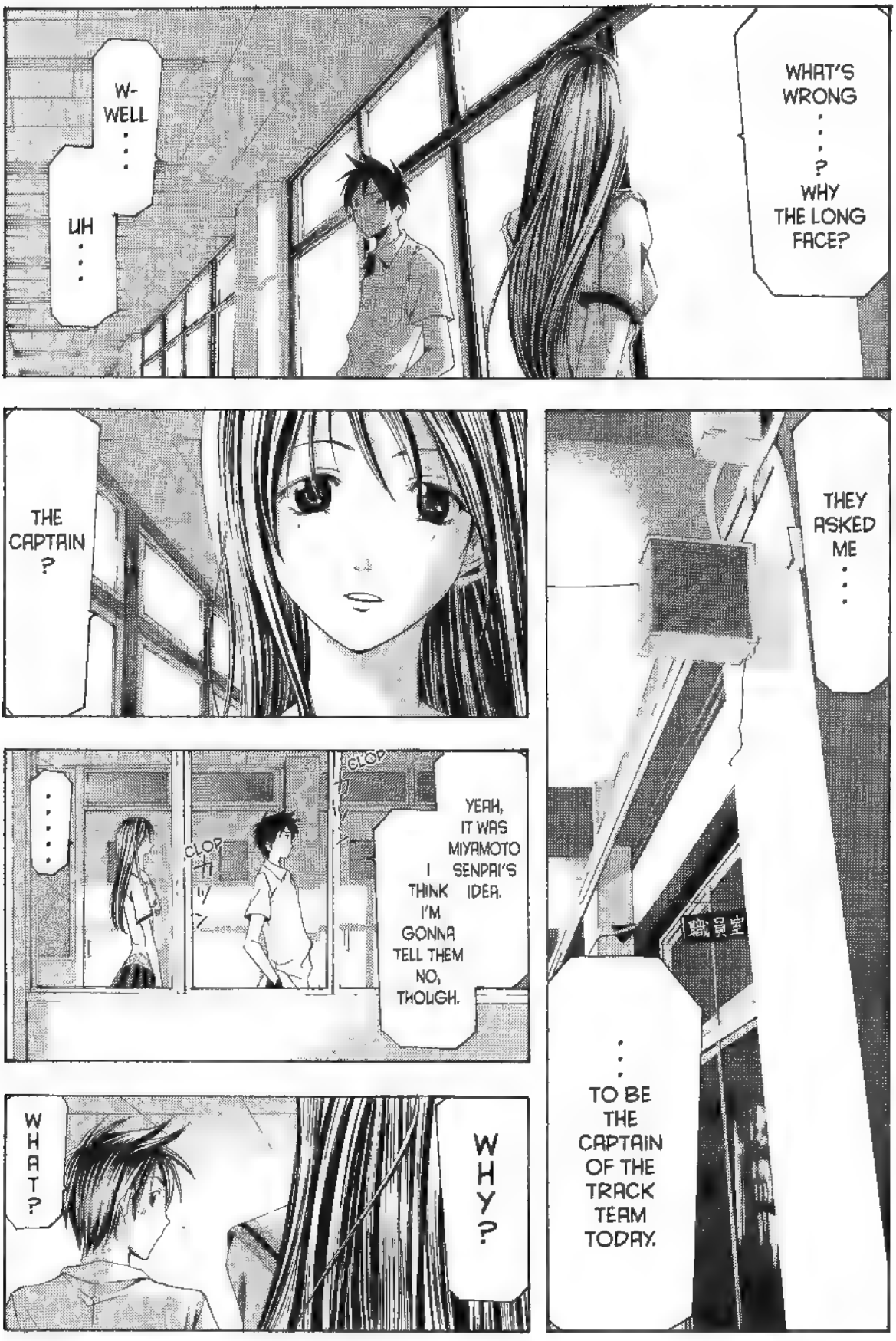
I JUST RUN FOR FUN.
CLOPPA
TEACHER'S OFFICE
CLOPPA
IT'S NOT LIKE I TAKE TRACK THAT SERIOUSLY, SO . . .
IF I BECOME TEAM CAPTAIN . . .
I WON'T BE ABLE TO QUIT THE TEAM IF I GET TIRED OF IT.
SLIDE
THANKS.
AH . . .

AH...
AKITSUKI-KUN...

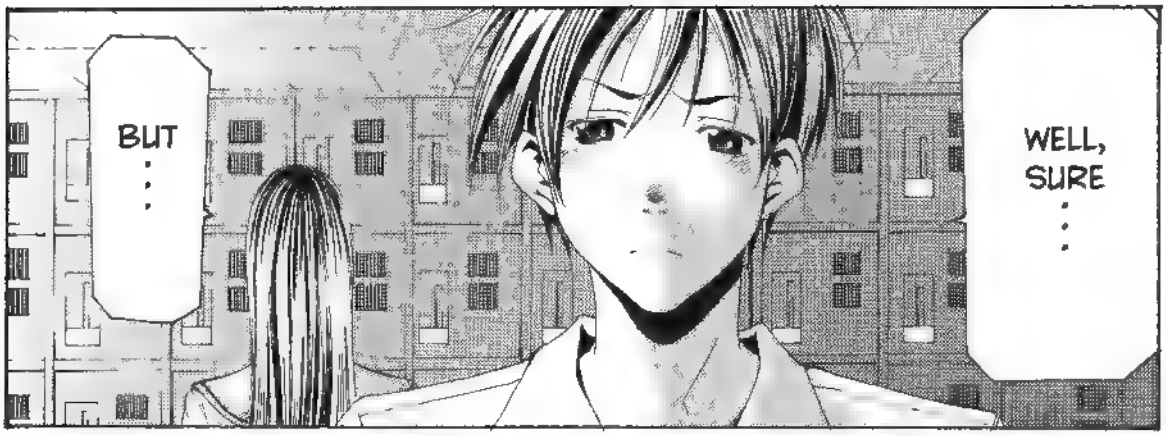
HONOKA-CHAN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT SCHOOL TODAY?
SLIDE
SLIDE
AH... I HAD SOME STUFF TO DO...

HEY, SO HOW WAS YOUR AUDITION? DID YOU GET THE PART?
AH...
Y-YEAH.

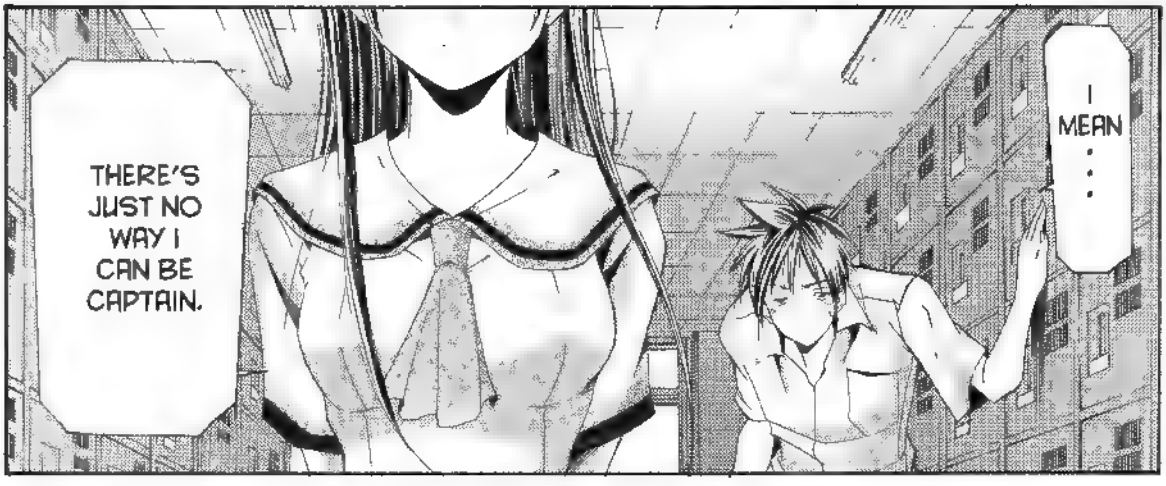
I GOT A CONTRACT TO MODEL FOR A MAGAZINE.
I CAME TO SCHOOL TO TALK ABOUT WHICH DAYS I'LL BE ABLE TO COME.
OH...
WOW!
SO YOU GOT IT? WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
WELL, GOOD FOR YOU.
CON-GRATULA-TIONS.

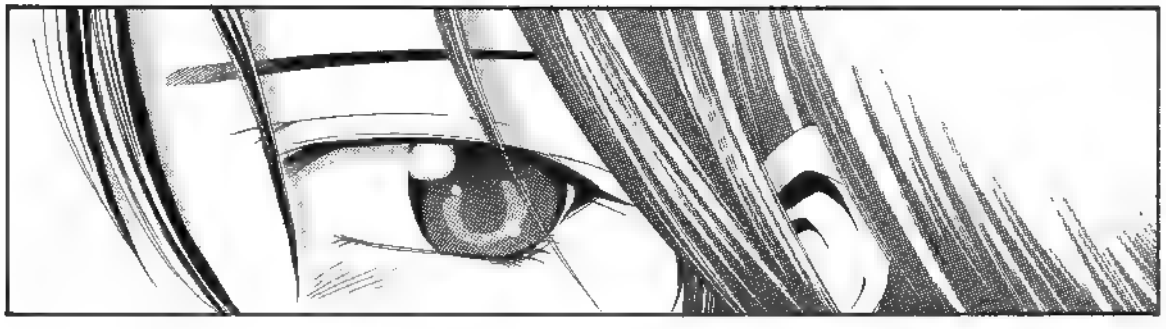

W-WELL...
UH...
WHAT'S WRONG...? WHY THE LONG FACE?
THE CAPTAIN?
THEY ASKED ME...
職員室
...TO BE THE CAPTAIN OF THE TRACK TEAM TODAY.
CLOP
CLOP
.....
YEAH, IT WAS MIYAMOTO SENPAI'S IDEA. I THINK I'M GONNA TELL THEM NO, THOUGH.
WHAT?
WHY?

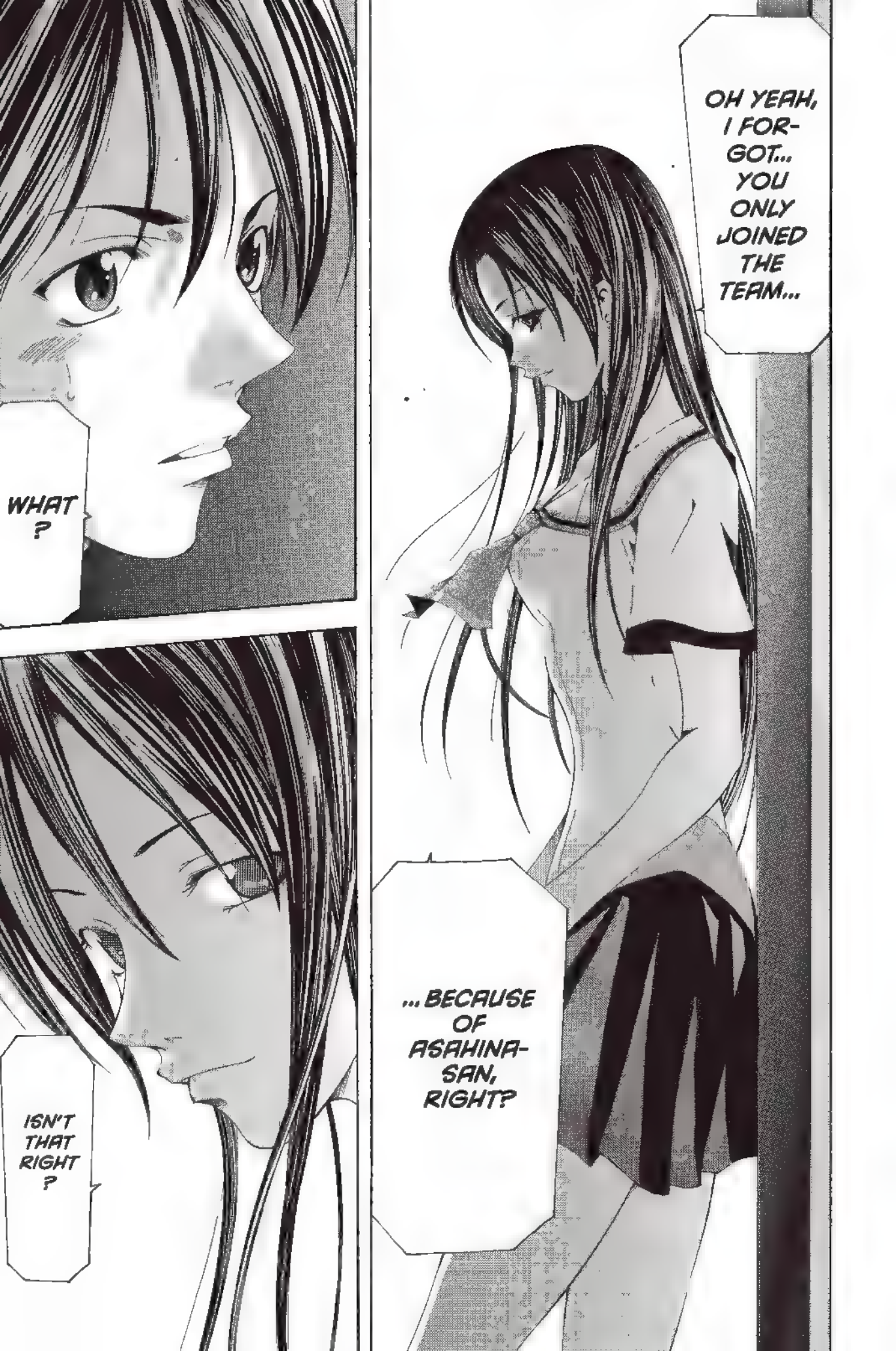
SURE, I DO
WHY WOULD YOU SAY NOT
YEAH !!
"M JUST NOT CUT OUT TO BE A CAPTAIN
WELL, MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST BE MORE CAREFUL
I'M ALWAYS BLOWING OFF PRACTICE OR GOING TO THE


WELL, SURE...
BUT...

THERE'RE OTHER GUYS WHO ARE A LOT MORE QUALIFIED THAN I AM.
KOBAYAKAWA IS WAY MORE DEPENDABLE THAN ME, AND HE'S A GREAT RUNNER.


I MEAN...
THERE'S JUST NO WAY I CAN BE CAPTAIN.

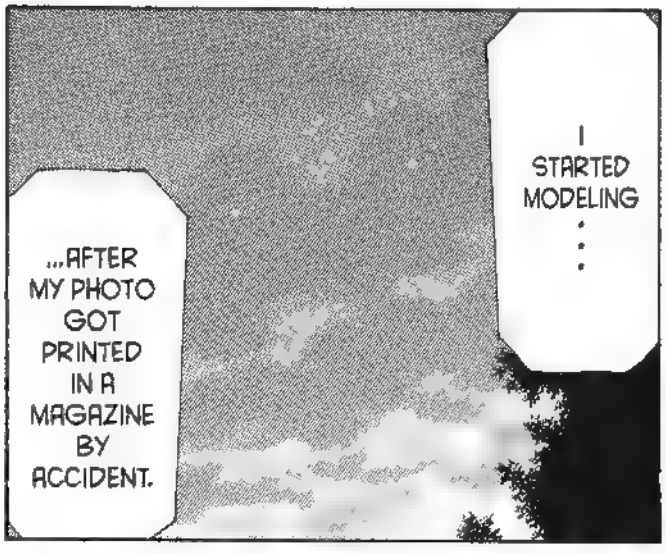


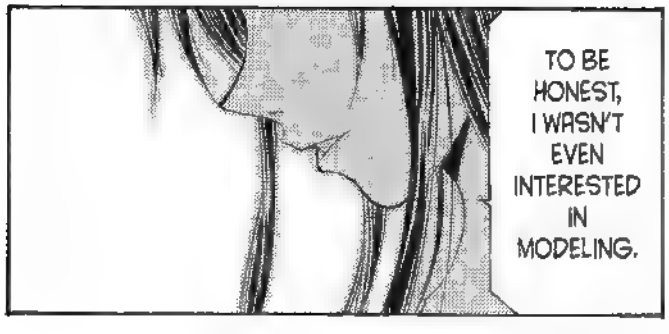

OH YEAH, I FOR-GOT... YOU ONLY JOINED THE TEAM...
... BECAUSE OF ASAHINA-SAN, RIGHT?
WHAT ?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT ?

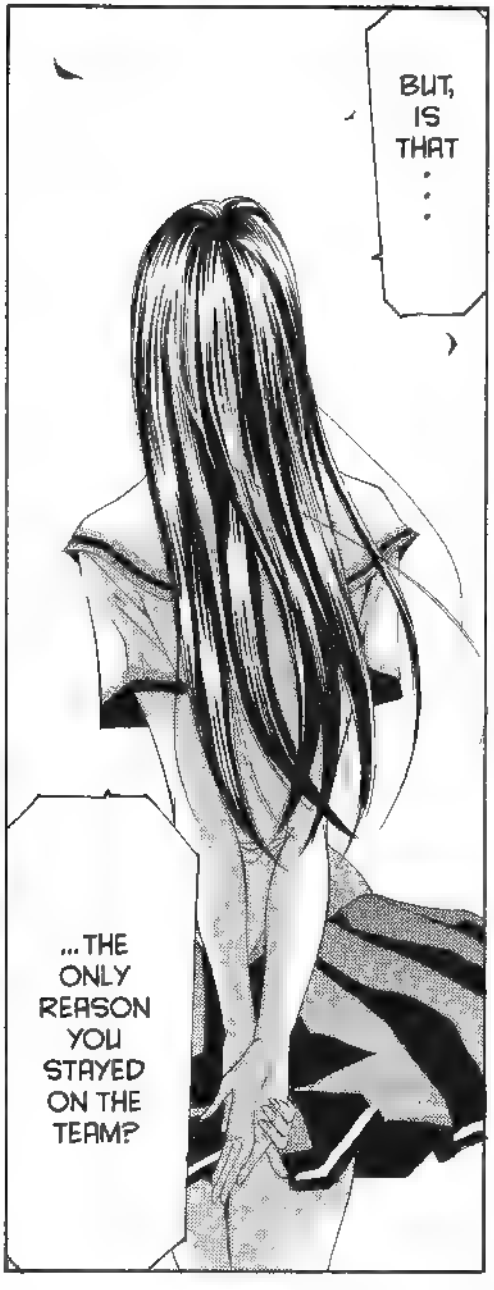
STEP

W-
WELL
...
UH-
HUH.

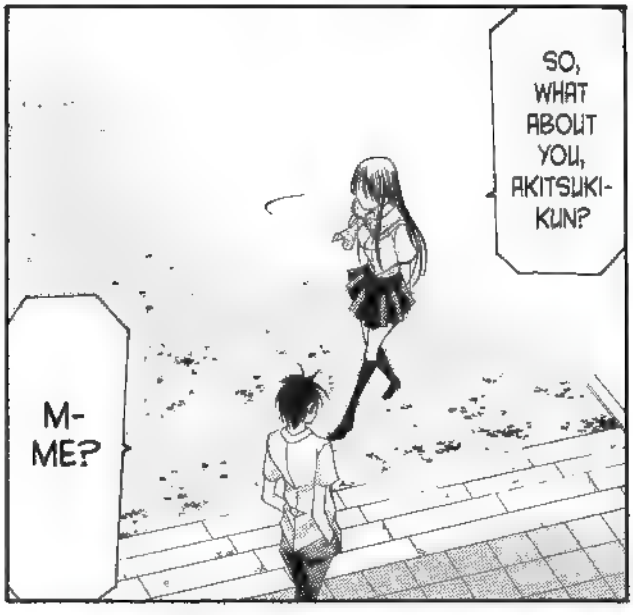
WHAT
?


I
STARTED
MODELING
...
...AFTER
MY PHOTO
GOT
PRINTED
IN A
MAGAZINE
BY
ACCIDENT.

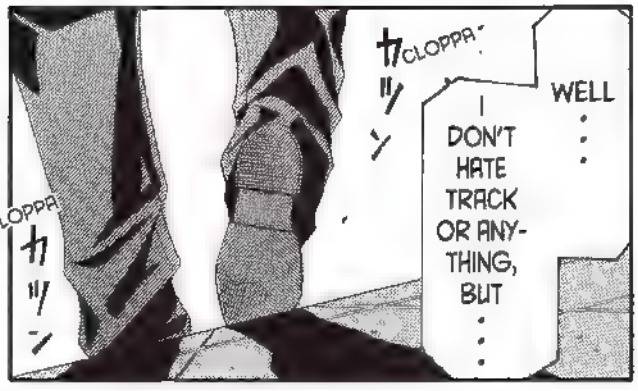

TO BE
HONEST,
I WASN'T
EVEN
INTERESTED
IN
MODELING.

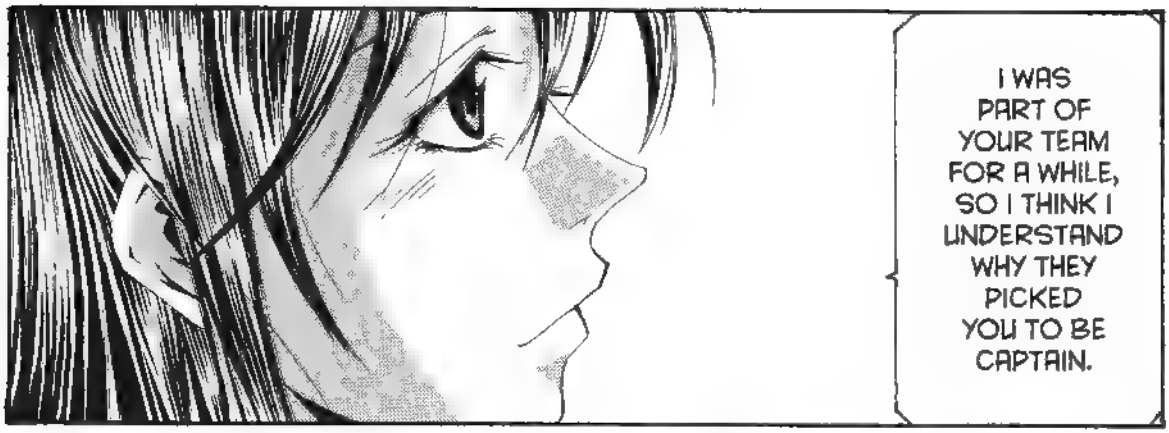

BUT,
IS
THAT
...
...THE
ONLY
REASON
YOU
STAYED
ON THE
TEAM?

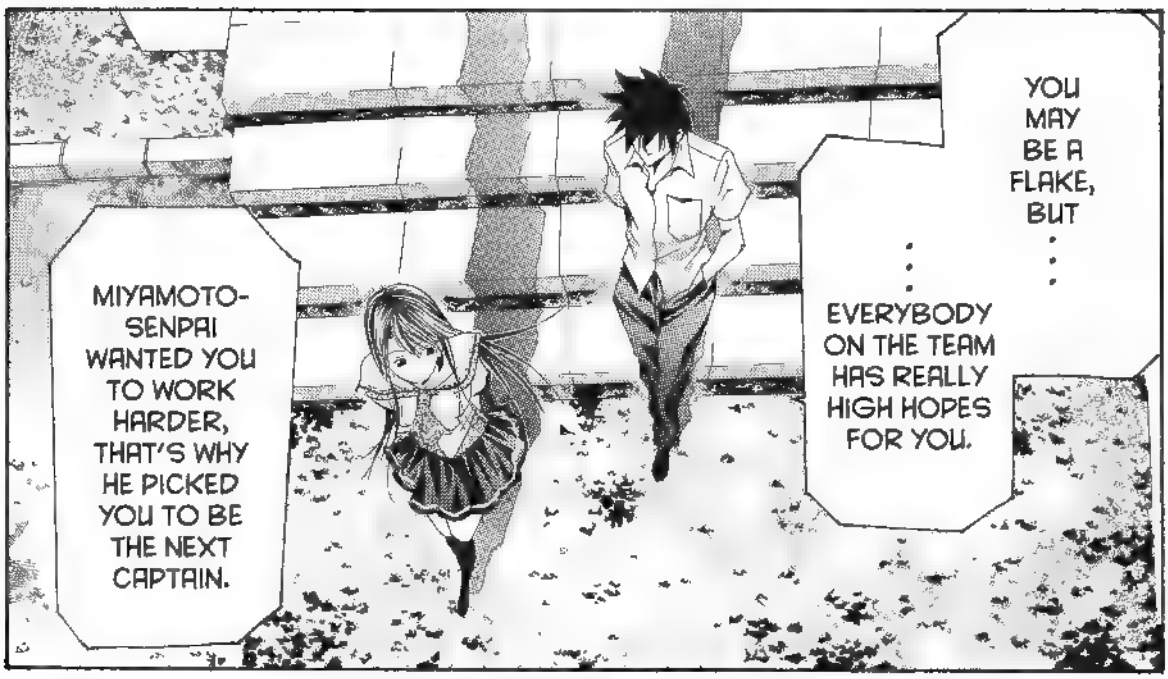
BUT I'M REALLY HAVING FUN WITH IT NOW.
I'M REALLY GLAD THAT THINGS WORKED OUT LIKE THIS.


SO, WHAT ABOUT YOU, AKITSUKI-KUN?
M-ME?

HONOKA-CHAN...


CLOPPA
CLOPPA
WELL...
I DON'T HATE TRACK OR ANY-THING, BUT...


I WAS PART OF YOUR TEAM FOR A WHILE, SO I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHY THEY PICKED YOU TO BE CAPTAIN.


MIYAMOTO-SENPAI WANTED YOU TO WORK HARDER, THAT'S WHY HE PICKED YOU TO BE THE NEXT CAPTAIN.
YOU MAY BE A FLAKE, BUT
EVERYBODY ON THE TEAM HAS REALLY HIGH HOPES FOR YOU.

THE GREATER THEIR EXPECTA-TIONS
THE GREATER THE PRES-SURE.

THE TEAM HAS HIGH HOPES FOR ME?
SURE.

BUT WON'T IT BE FUN TO . . .
. . . GET A CHANCE TO PROVE YOURSELF ?
. . . . . .
FUN ?

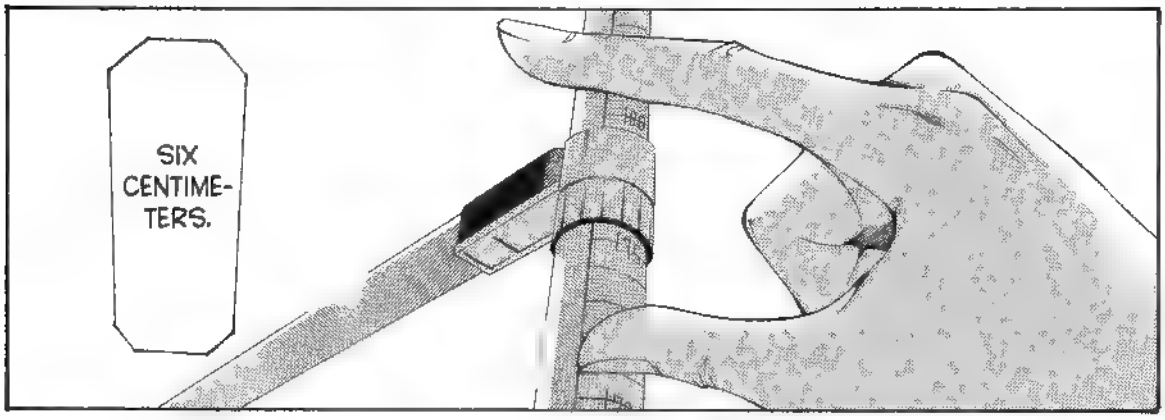
WELL, IN THE END...
YOU HAVE TO MAKE THIS DECISION FOR YOURSELF, AKITSUKI-KUN
HMM... I GUESS THAT'D MEAN TRAINING FOR MYSELF...
. . .
AND NOT FOR ASAHINA.

HEY, DID YOU HEAR !?
SUZUKA SET A NEW RECORD IN AMERICA!
SHE CLEARED 180 CM!!
NO WAY !
THAT'S REALLY GOOD EVEN IN AMERICA, ISN'T IT!?
180 CM . . .

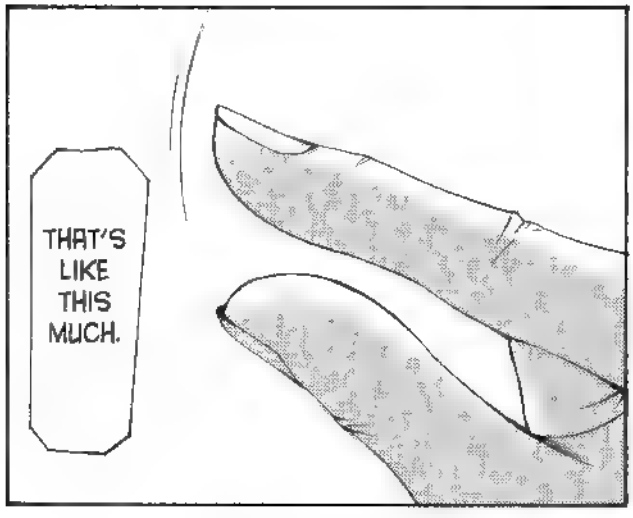
#120 THE DECISION
SUZUKA
160

HA, HA...
WOW.
IT'S EVEN TALLER THAN I AM.
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT HEIGHT?
HEY! WHAT HEIGHT DID YOU PUT THE BAR AT?
175
160
BECAUSE OF YOU...
I SET A NEW RECORD WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT!!

SO THIS IS HOW MUCH ASAHINA'S IMPROVED IN THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF...

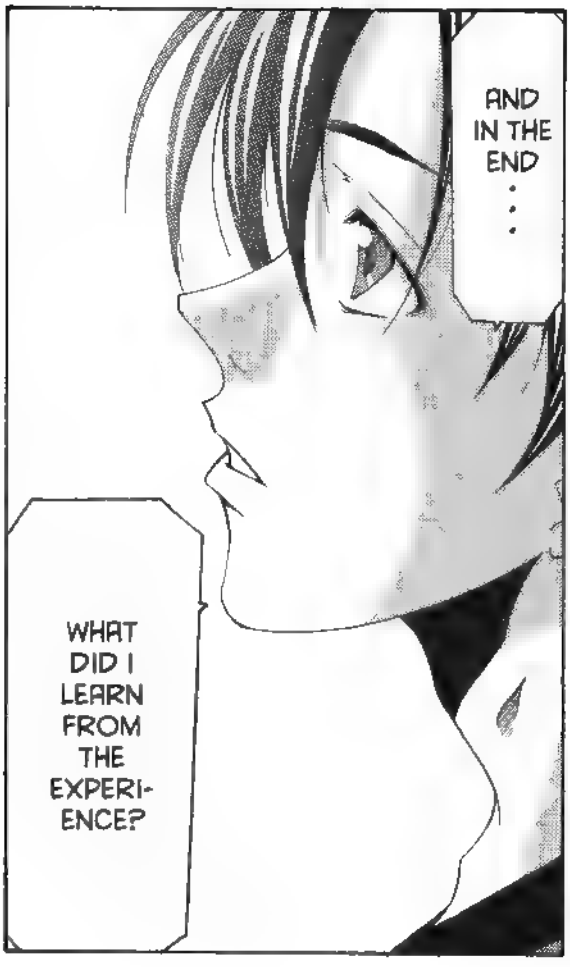

SIX CENTIME-TERS.

.35 SECONDS?


THAT'S LIKE THIS MUCH.

AND IN THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF
I CUT MY TIME FROM 10.98 SECONDS TO 10.63 SECONDS

I WOULD'VE NEVER KNOWN HOW HARD IT WAS JUST TO CUT YOUR TIME BY .35 SECONDS.
FALUMP
!!
OF COURSE, IF I HADN'T STARTED DOING TRACK . . .


AND IN THE END . . .
WHAT DID I LEARN FROM THE EXPERI-ENCE?

I RAN BACK AND FORTH AND BACK AND FORTH ON THE SAME LITTLE TRACK . . .
DAY IN AND DAY OUT . . .

HUH?
YOU'RE STILL HERE, HUH?
REMINISCING ABOUT THE GIRL WHO DUMPED YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT THE HIGH-JUMP BAR FOR?
WHAT!? I WAS JUST . . .
OH, ACTING LIKE THE TEAM CAPTAIN ALREADY, HUH!?
GIVE ME A BREAK!
. . . . . .
WHAT DO YOU WANT ?

LISTEN! I KNOW THE REST OF THE TEAM IS COOL WITH YOU BEING CAPTAIN . . .
. . . BUT IF YOU ASK ME...YOU HAVEN'T GOT WHAT IT TAKES.
WHAT?
COOL . . . . . WITH ME ?
YEAH, EVERY-BODY BUT ME.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY SEE IN YOU.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CAPTAIN !!

!?
FWIP
THEY'RE COOL WITH IT . . .
LISTEN, PIG NOSE! I MIGHT BE A BIT BEHIND YOUR RECORD . . .
η" η" η"
BUT YOU JUST WAIT. I'M GONNA BREAK YOUR RECORD REAL SOON.
HEY, I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT YOUR LITTLE TUSSLE, BUT
SORRY . . .
DON'T APOLOGIZE!
FOR GOD'S SAKE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY "THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE BEATING ME!" GEEZ. WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
A-ALL RIGHT . . .

AH...
SASAOKA-SAN.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK IN JAPAN.

L-LATER!!
MAYBE YOU'LL GET RUN OVER ON YOUR WAY HOME!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!!?
WHOOSH

HA, HA, HA, LOOK'S LIKE YOU'VE GOT A REAL RIVAL THERE.
THAT'S KOBAYAKAWA-KUN RIGHT? ISN'T HE HERE ON SCHOLAR-SHIP?
A-HA HA HA.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

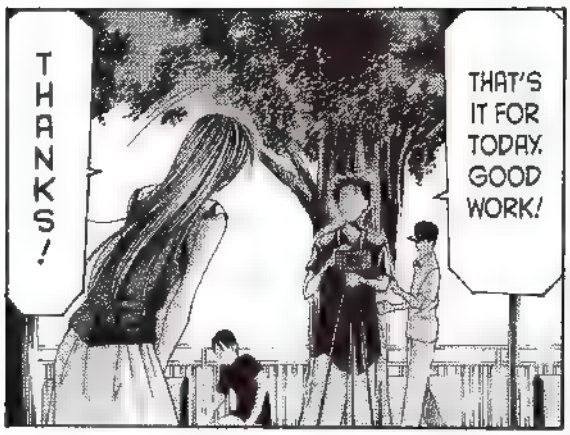
LONG TIME NO SEE.
I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE HOME ALREADY.

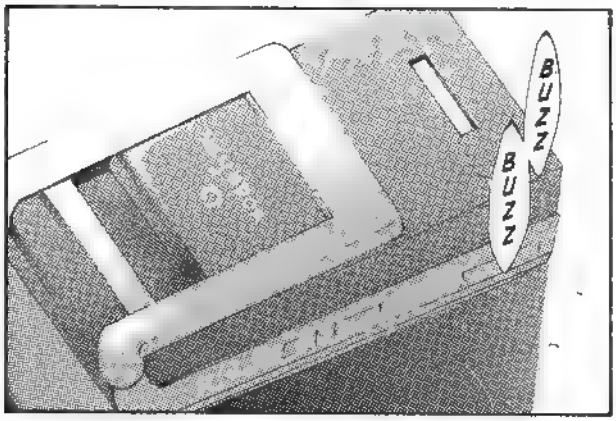
WELL. THAT JUST SHOWS THAT...
...YOU'VE BECOME THIS TEAM'S CENTER OF ATTENTION
WHAT...?
SUZUKA-CHAN'S WORKING REALLY HARD IN AMERICA
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HER NEW RECORD?
Y-YEAH... SORT OF
AH, I WANTED TO SEE YOU KNOW THAT...
IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANNA SAY TO HER I'LL PASS IT ON...
NAH, I'M GOOD

OH... I CAME TO SEE YOU.
ME...?
UH, SO... WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO SCHOOL TODAY?
A-HA HAHA OK RIGHT SORRY I'M SURE YOU GUYS ARE ALREADY KEEPING IN TOUCH
YEAH, WELL... I GOT LEFT IN THE DUST, SO...
I JUST GOT BACK FROM THE STATES TODAY AND I HEARD THAT YOU WERE IN THE LAST I.H. MEET.
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED!
FLIP
AND I REMEMBERED THAT PROMISE I MADE YOU.
HERE YOU GO...
WHAT?
adir
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR NOT TAKING YOU MORE SERIOUSLY BEFORE
WOULDN'T SAY THAT TOOK A LOOK AT YOUR STATS TOO YOUR FASTEST TIME ISN'T TOO SHABBY, YA KNOW

TRACK SHOES ?
CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING FIRST PRIZE!
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DESIGN A CUSTOM PAIR...
BUT THIS IS THE VERY PROTOTYPE OF OUR NEW PRODUCT
FOR ME?
.....

THAT'S OKAY...
.....
OF COURSE, I'D BE HAPPY TO MAKE A CUSTOM PAIR FOR YOU LATER.
ARE YOU SURE?
WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...
I'M HAPPY WITH THESE...
ACTUALLY, YA KNOW, THERE IS SOME-THING...
...YOU COULD PASS ON TO ASAHINA FOR ME.

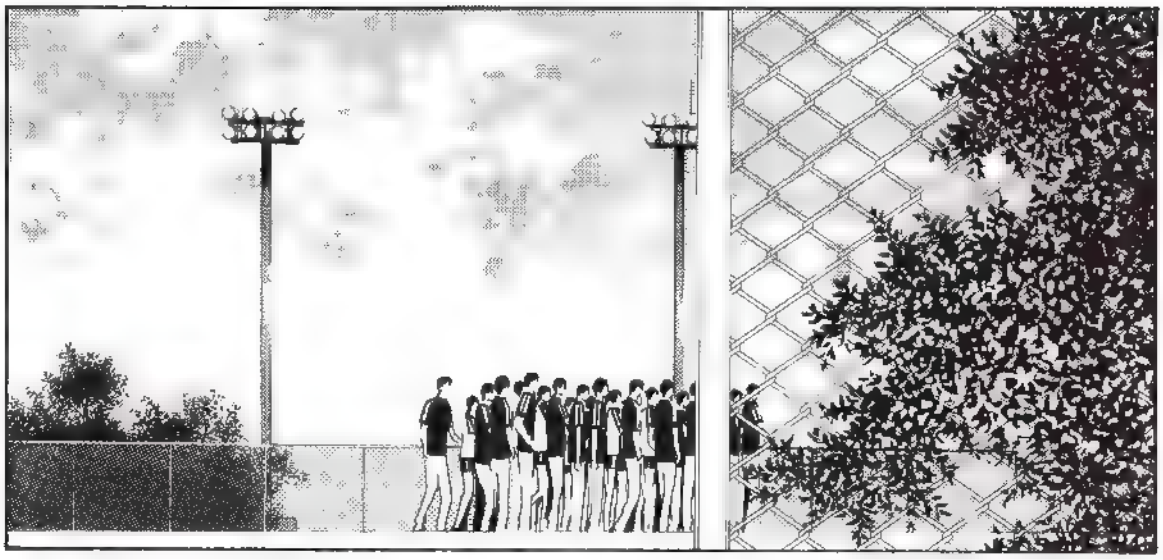

THANKS!
THAT'S IT FOR TODAY. GOOD WORK!


BUZZ
BUZZ

AH... I GOT A TEXT.
SWAP

PHEW...
I ALWAYS GET SO NERVOUS WHEN I'M MODELING.

HEY!
IF YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND I NEED TO KNOW!
AH... IT'S NOTHING!
WHO'S THAT FROM? YOU SEEM REALLY HAPPY.
LOOKS LIKE HE MADE HIS DESCION.
OH...
YAMATO AKITSUKI
"NO SUBJECT"
LET'S BOTH HANG IN THERE!!!
CLICK
HEY!?
CLICK CLICK



CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ

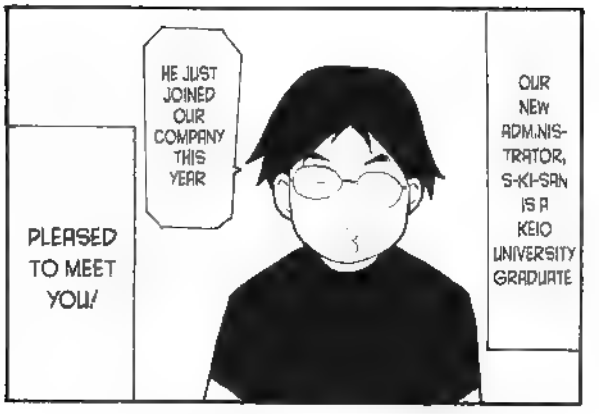
UMM...
O-OKAY.
THUNK
ドシ
COME ON, JUST GET IT OVER WITH!

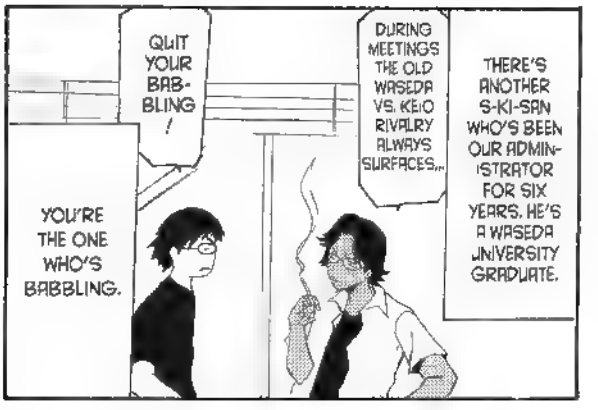
YES...
YOU WANT ME TO TELL HER THAT?
...AND THE ONLY REASON ANYBODY IS PUTTING THEIR FAITH IN ME...
THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE RIGHT NOW...
TEE HEE
COME ON, LET'S GET PRACTICE STARTED ALREADY!
WHAT'S GOING ON!? YOU GOT SOME-THING TO SAY OR WHAT!?
...IS BECAUSE...
...OF ASAHINA.
WELL...
MY REASON FOR STAYING ON THE TEAM MAY HAVE CHANGED, BUT...
THERE'S ONE THING I NEED TO SAY TO HER.

"THANK YOU!"
MY NAME IS YAMATO AKITSUKI AND STARTING TODAY, I'LL BE THE NEW TEAM CAPTAIN.
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

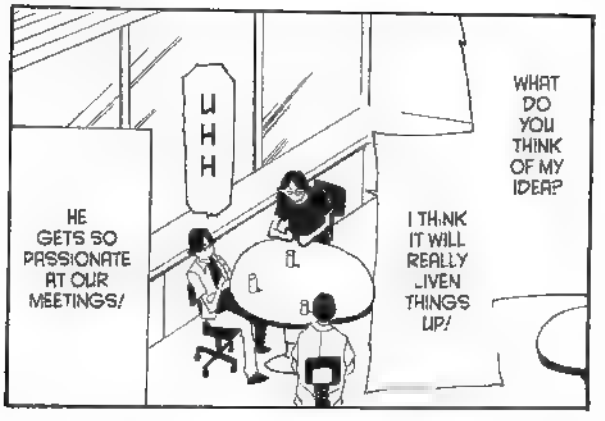
NO. 30 "NEW FACE"




YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BABBLING.
QUIT YOUR BABBLING!
DURING MEETINGS THE OLD WASEDA VS. KEIO RIVALRY ALWAYS SURFACES...
THERE'S ANOTHER S-KI-SAN WHO'S BEEN OUR ADMINISTRATOR FOR SIX YEARS. HE'S A WASEDA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE.

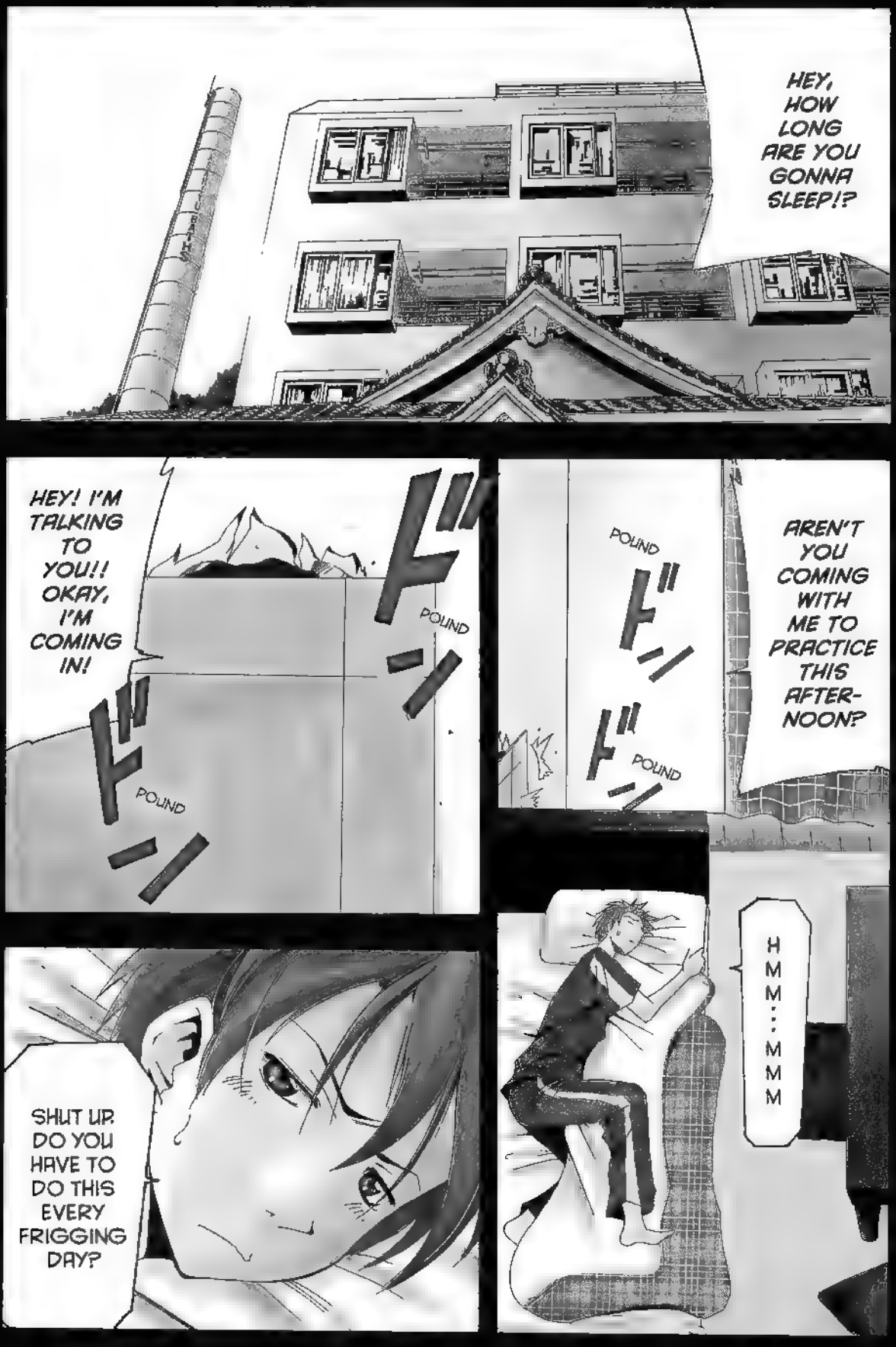
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE SUZUKA THE MOST WANTED WOMAN IN JAPAN! WHAT HAVE WE GOT PLANNED FOR NEXT WEEK'S STORY?
HE'S REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC WHEN IT COMES TO HIS JOB!!

...WHO JUST JOINED OUR COMPANY THIS YEAR.
OUR NEW ADMINIS-TRATOR, S-KI-SAN, IS A KEIO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE.
I'LL GIVE THIS JOB MY ALL!



SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

NO. 31 "AMBITION!"


HEY, HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA SLEEP!?
AREN'T YOU COMING WITH ME TO PRACTICE THIS AFTER-NOON?
POUND
POUND
POUND
POUND
HEY! I'M TALKING TO YOU!! OKAY, I'M COMING IN!
HMM... MMM
SHUT UP. DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY FRIGGING DAY?

SUZUKA

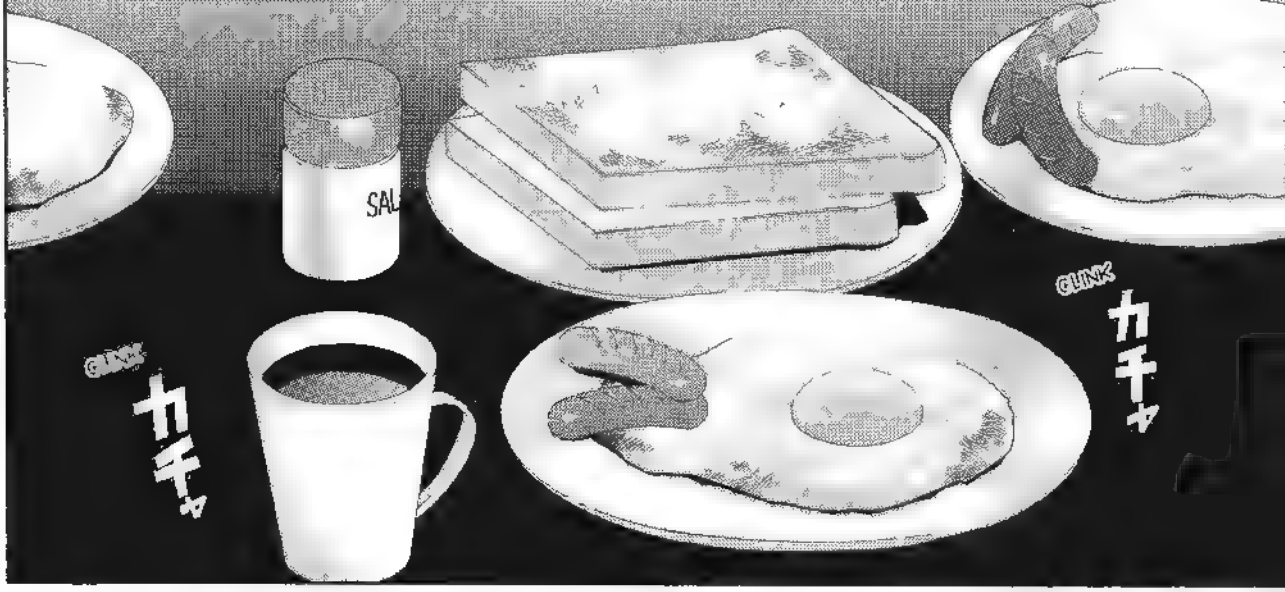
#121 RETURNING HOME

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL ASLEEP, YAMATO-KUN!
WHAT?

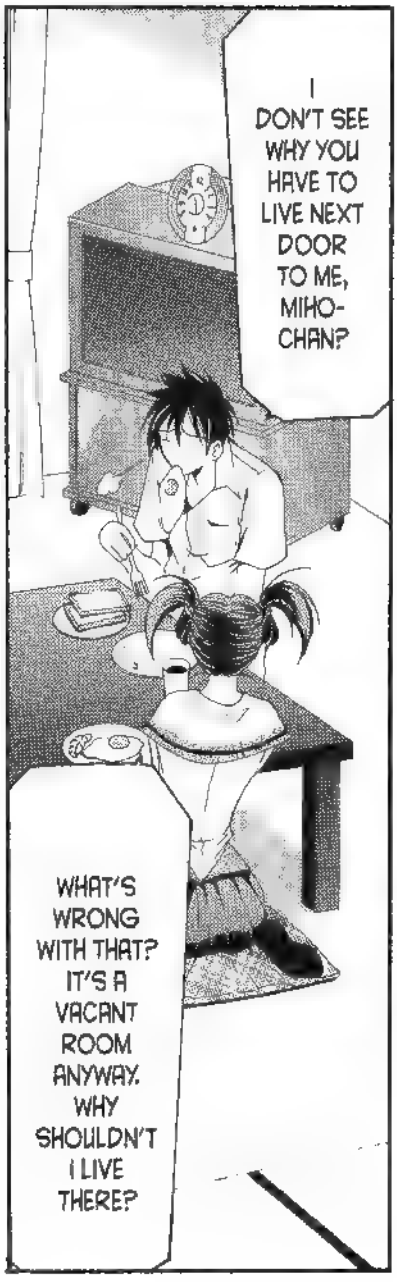
LEAVE ME ALONE...
YOU'RE GIVING A SPEECH AT THE SENIOR RETIREMENT CEREMONY TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
GET UP, CAPTAIN!
FWUP

SHUT UP! JUST LET ME SLEEP. IT'S SUMMER VACATION FOR GOD'S SAKE!
BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY RETIRED FROM THE TEAM.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

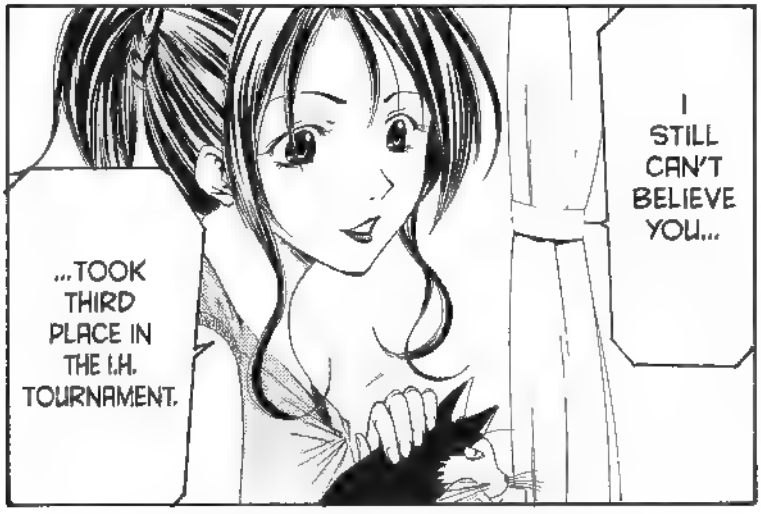
WAA!! OKAY, OKAY. I CAN CHANGE MYSELF!!
301
YAMATO AKITSUKI
GET UP!! I'LL DRAG YOU DOWN THERE MYSELF IF I HAVE TO. IT'S MY DUTY AS TEAM MANAGER!!


SAL
CLINK
カチャ
CLINK
カチャ

WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY.
WILL YOU AT LEAST FIX THAT HOLE IN THE WALL, AYANO-SAN?


I DON'T SEE WHY YOU HAVE TO LIVE NEXT DOOR TO ME, MIHO-CHAN?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? IT'S A VACANT ROOM ANYWAY. WHY SHOULDN'T I LIVE THERE?

MEOW
TCH
WHAT DO YOU THINK, GORO-CHAN?


...TOOK THIRD PLACE IN THE I.H. TOURNAMENT.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU...

ARIMA WASN'T IN THE COMPETITION... BUT THERE WERE SOME REALLY FAST NEWCOMERS.
I WAS HOPING FOR FIRST, SINCE . . .
WELL... YEAH... BUT...
GRUNCH
IT'S STILL AMAZING, AND TOUTO UNIVERSITY EVEN GUARANTEED YOU A SPOT ON THEIR ROSTER.
DAYS
SHE WAS ON THE COVER LAST TIME . . .
SHE'S PRACTI-CALLY A SUPER-MODEL NOW.
HEY, LOOK, MOM! SAKURAI-SENPAI IS IN THIS MAGAZINE AGAIN... LOOK AT ALL THESE PHOTOS OF HER.
WOW, HONOKA-CHAN IS FAMOUS.
FWEESH
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S A FRIEND OF YOURS.
TEE-HEE. YEAH, IT'S PRETTY COOL.

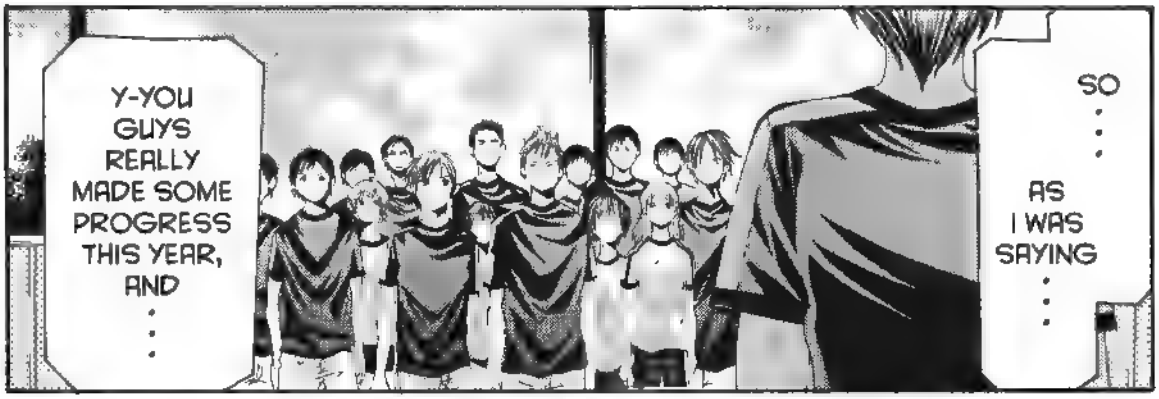
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
ARE YOU GUYS GOING OUT?
WHAT !?
BY THE WAY . . .
WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND SAKURAI-SENPAI?
HUH...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
8月
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WE-WE JUST KIND OF SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
N-NO, WE'RE JUST FRIENDS.
SH . . .
SHUT UP !!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU TWO ARE PRETTY CLOSE, BUT . . .
. . . YOU'RE AFRAID SHE'LL REJECT YOU IF YOU TELL HER HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.

HELLO!!
ピンポーン
DING
DONG
HERE HE IS AGAIN...
AH! SAVED BY THE BELL...
DON'T WORRY. I DON'T CARE HOW MANY TIMES YOU GET DUMPED OR HOW UNPOPULAR YOU ARE, I'LL STILL MARRY YOU.
WOULD YOU JUST SHUT UP.
YOU THINK I'M JOKING, DON'T YOU.
SWUP
I'M TSUYOSHI KUSAKABE !!
I'M HERE TO WALK TO SCHOOL WITH CAPTAIN AKITSUKI!

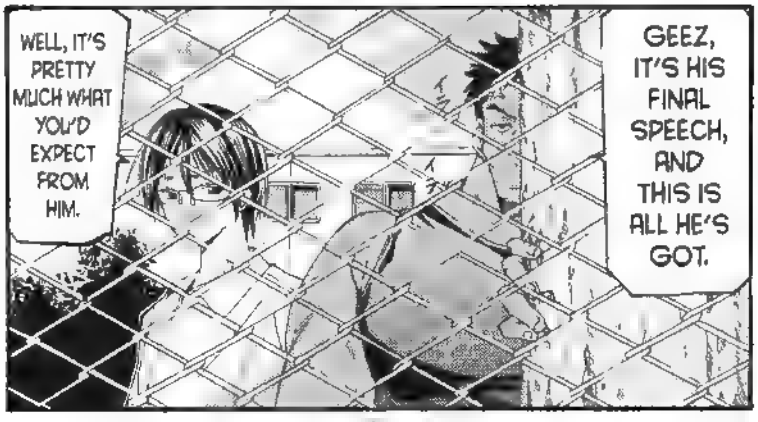
YOUR TIMING WAS PERFECT, KUSAKABE.
OH, REALLY, SENPAI !?
...
HEY, I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME "SENPAI," NOT YAMATO-KUN.
SLUMP
"11" イ～ン
UHH...
YOU'RE SO ANNOY-ING !!
I WANTED TO WALK TO SCHOOL WITH YAMATO-KUN! IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE JUST THE TWO OF US, JERK!
OKAY, FINE, AKITSUKI SENPAI !!
STOP PULLING MY ARM.
FUJI-KAWA...
SHOCK
"11" イ～ン

UH... I-I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH H—
SHE CAN BE A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS.
YOU SURE PICKED A TOUGH ONE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH, MAN...
WHEN IT COMES TO GIRLS, ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS SOMEONE WHO'S EASY-GOING AND KNOWS HOW TO COOK.
HUH ?
WHAT . . . !?
AH . . . !
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SAKURAI SENPAI, RIGHT!?
WHAT !? WHY !!?
カイーン
SLUMP
YOU JUST BOUGHT YOUR-SELF TEN EXTRA LAPS!!

NO WAY, JERK.
BECAUSE YOU'RE OUR TEAM MANAGER, THAT'S WHY!
WHAT? WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO THAT...?
HEY...DO YOU WANT TO STICK AROUND WHILE I RUN THOSE EXTRA LAPS, FUJIKAWA?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE GUYS ARE GONNA BE IN CHARGE WHEN I GRADUATE.
OH, BROTHER...


Y-YOU GUYS REALLY MADE SOME PROGRESS THIS YEAR, AND...
SO...
AS I WAS SAYING...

HEY, CAPTAIN. THIS IS YOUR LAST SPEECH! QUIT STUTTERING.
...I-I'M SURE I SPEAK FOR ALL THE SENIORS WHEN I SAY WE'RE CONFIDENT THAT WE'LL BE LEAVING THE TEAM IN GOOD HANDS.
AND...


WELL, IT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM HIM.
GEEZ, IT'S HIS FINAL SPEECH, AND THIS IS ALL HE'S GOT.

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR PUTTING UP WITH ME FOR THIS PAST YEAR.
A-ANY-WAY...

SHUT UP, FOURTH PLACE.
WHAT...!?

FWUP
THANK YOU VERY MUCH !!

THANKS, AKITSUKI SENPAI !!
GOOD WORK !!

I DON'T GET WHY ALL THE NOOBS LIKE YOU SO MUCH.
BUT YOU TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD CAPTAIN. YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD TEACHER.
I WAS REALLY WORRIED AT FIRST.
AH-HAHA. I GUESS THEY THINK OF ME AS A BIG BROTHER OR SOMETHING.

T-THANKS...
GOOD WORK, AKITSUKI !

AH... SO THIS IS IT, HUH? NO MORE TRACK FOR US.
I'D BETTER START THINKING ABOUT WHAT TO DO AFTER GRADUATION.
HEY, YAMATO-KUN!
YOU AND KOBAYAKAWA ARE LUCKY. YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN SCOUTED BY UNIVERSITY TEAMS, RIGHT?
YEAH. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WANTED KOBAYAKAWA THOUGH.
SHUT UP!! I'M ONLY 0.03 SECONDS AWAY FROM TYING YOUR BEST TIME, YA KNOW.
YASU-NOBU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT ARE *YOU GUYS* DOING? JUST HANGING OUT?
WE'RE DISCUSSING OUR FUTURE.
YEAH, SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE GONNA DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

I'LL GET INTO WASEDA AND KEIO, NO PROB.
WHATEVER. I JUST ACED ALL MY PRACTICE TESTS.
NO WAY! I DON'T BELIEVE IT . . .
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ARE YOU SERIOUS? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THAT SMART.
NO FAIR! I WANNA GO TOO.
I'M NOT DOING ANY-THING.
THE BEACH ?
YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT COLLEGE YOU'RE GOING TO, RIGHT?
SO LET'S GO TO THE BEACH AND PICK UP SOME CHICKS. IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE.

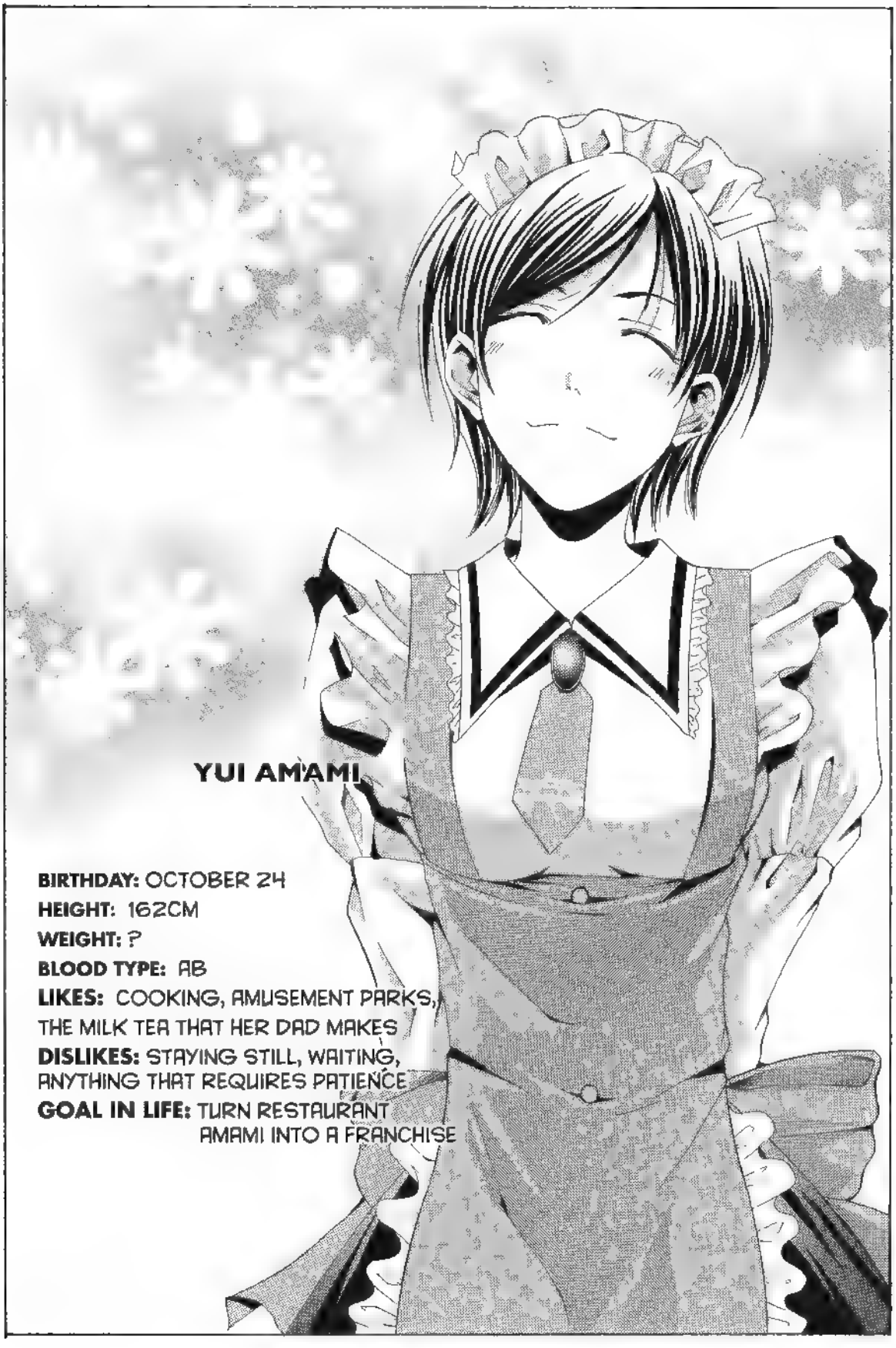
I'M GOING TO A JUNIOR COLLEGE AND STUDYING TO BE A COACH.
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE!!
WE CAN'T HIT ON CHICKS WITH YOU AROUND !!
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU ASK SAKURAI TO COME ALONG !!?
AND TELL HER TO BRING A COUPLE OF HER MODEL FRIENDS. HOW 'BOUT THAT?
WHAT!?
WELL, WHY DON'T WE ALL GO.
YOU TOO, KOBAYAKAWA.
HUH? NAH, I'M GOOD.
WHAT?
!?
FWUP

YEAH, CALL HER! YOU GOTTA CALL HER!
HE'S RIGHT. GIVE HER A CALL! THE MORE THE MERRIER.
I DON'T KNOW. SHE'S PROBABLY BUSY.
YOU WON'T KNOW UNLESS YOU ASK, RIGHT!?
.....
AH... IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY IT'S COOL...
HOLD ON A SEC, LET ME CHECK!
ONODERA-SAN!?
THE BEACH?
Y-YEAH... CAN YOU COME?
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
GO AWAY.

OKAY! THEY SAID...
...I COULD HAVE THE DAY OFF!!
OH...
REALLY?
ALL RIGHT. COOL!
HEY, SAKURAI! BRING SOME MODELS WITH YOU!
CHATTER
SHUT UP, YASU-NOBU!!
CHATTER
ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE I WILL GO.

カツン!
STEP

CHARACTER PROFILE NO.15



YUI AMAMI

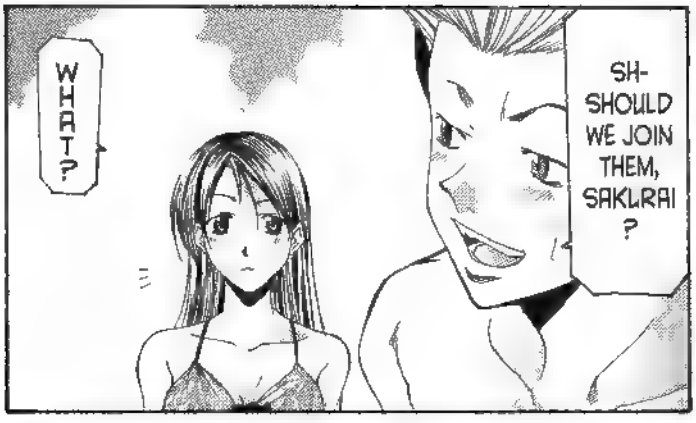
BIRTHDAY: OCTOBER 24
HEIGHT: 162CM
WEIGHT: ?
BLOOD TYPE: AB
LIKES: COOKING, AMUSEMENT PARKS, THE MILK TEA THAT HER DAD MAKES
DISLIKES: STAYING STILL, WAITING, ANYTHING THAT REQUIRES PATIENCE
GOAL IN LIFE: TURN RESTAURANT AMAMI INTO A FRANCHISE

SUZUKA
#122 FRIENDS

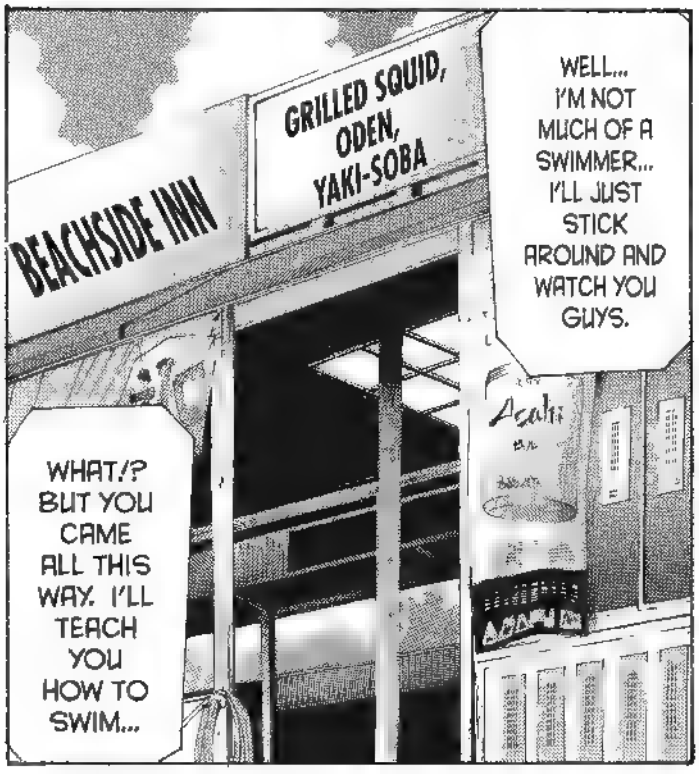
COME ON, YAMATO-KUN!! LET'S GO!
WOW. WHAT A NICE DAY!

FUJIKAWA! HEY, FUJIKAWA!! IT'S LESS CROWDED OVER THERE!
FWIP
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY GOING OVER THERE!
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE !!?
.....
GEEZ. I'M NOT BABYSITTING THAT LITTLE BRAT, YA KNOW.
WHAT COULD I DO? SHE REALLY WANTED TO COME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SAKURAI DIDN'T BRING ANY FRIENDS ALONG.
WHAT?
SORRY.
EVERY-BODY'S BUSY DURING THE SUMMER...
IT'S OKAY, SAKURAI-SAN. DON'T LISTEN TO THAT JERK.
YEAH.
WHAT!? WHO YOU CALLING A JERK?
YOU, THAT'S WHO.

WHAT? SHUT UP, YOU PERVERT !!
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED, HASHIBA. I DON'T WANT YOUR BOOBS BUSTIN' OUT OF THAT BIKINI.
WHATEVER . . . I'M GONNA PICK UP SOME LADIES.


WHAT?
SH-SHOULD WE JOIN THEM, SAKURAI ?

COME ON. LET'S GO, YAMATO-KUN!
HEY, EASY ON MY ARM.
SLUMP
STEP
FUJ-KAWA . . .


BEACHSIDE INN
GRILLED SQUID, ODEN, YAKI-SOBA
Asahi
WELL... I'M NOT MUCH OF A SWIMMER... I'LL JUST STICK AROUND AND WATCH YOU GUYS.
WHAT!? BUT YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY. I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO SWIM...

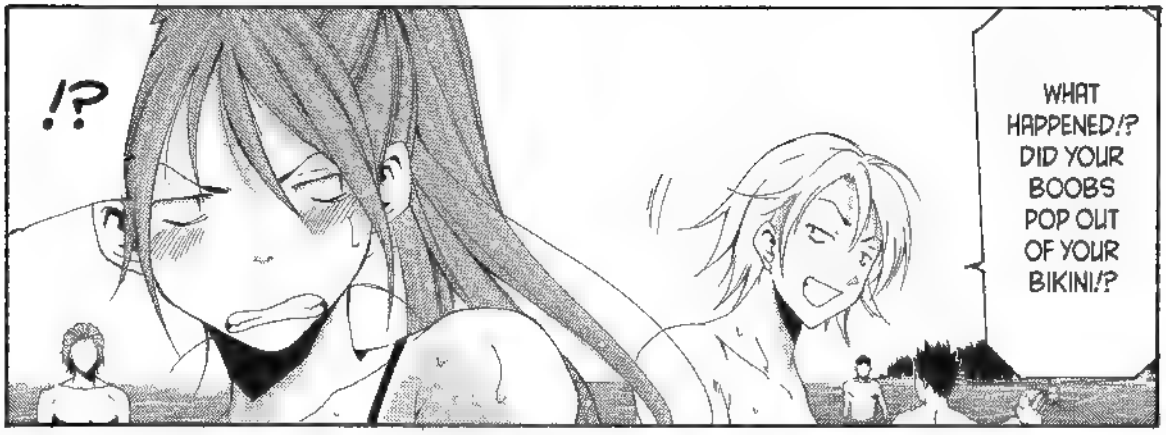
HEY, KOBAYAKAWA. LET'S GO RENT BOOGIE-BOARDS!
WHAT!? NO THANKS.
COME ON. IT'S CHEAPER WHEN YOU RENT TWO BOARDS !!
LET GO OF ME, STUPID !!
I DON'T WANT TO BOOGIE-BOARD !!
THEN DON'T !!

キャッ
KYAA
キャッ
KYAA

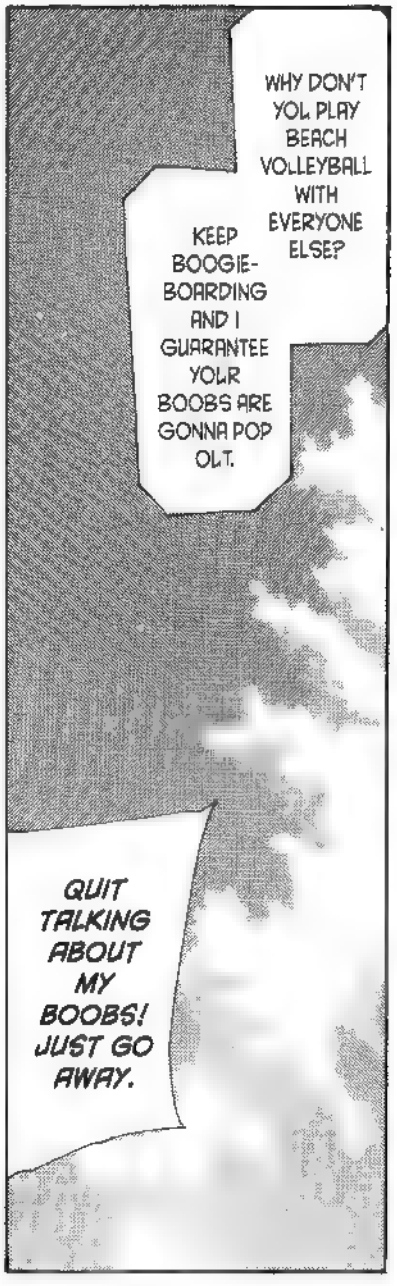
WHAT?
TSSSSAA...
WATCH OUT!! GET OUT OF MY WAY, AKITSUKI !!

SORRY!! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, AKITSUKI !!?
GUB
GUB
.....
BONK
WAAHHHH!!

AH
F.W.GK
WHAT . . .
FLUP
COUGH COUGH
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?
SMACK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING !!?
!?
AAAA-HHH !!
OH, NO!! SORRY !!
FLOAT
プカ


!?
WHAT HAPPENED!? DID YOUR BOOBS POP OUT OF YOUR BIKINI!?

YOU ARE SUCH AN ASS-HOLE.
ALL RIGHTY THEN, TIME TO GO CHILL WITH SOME LADIES.

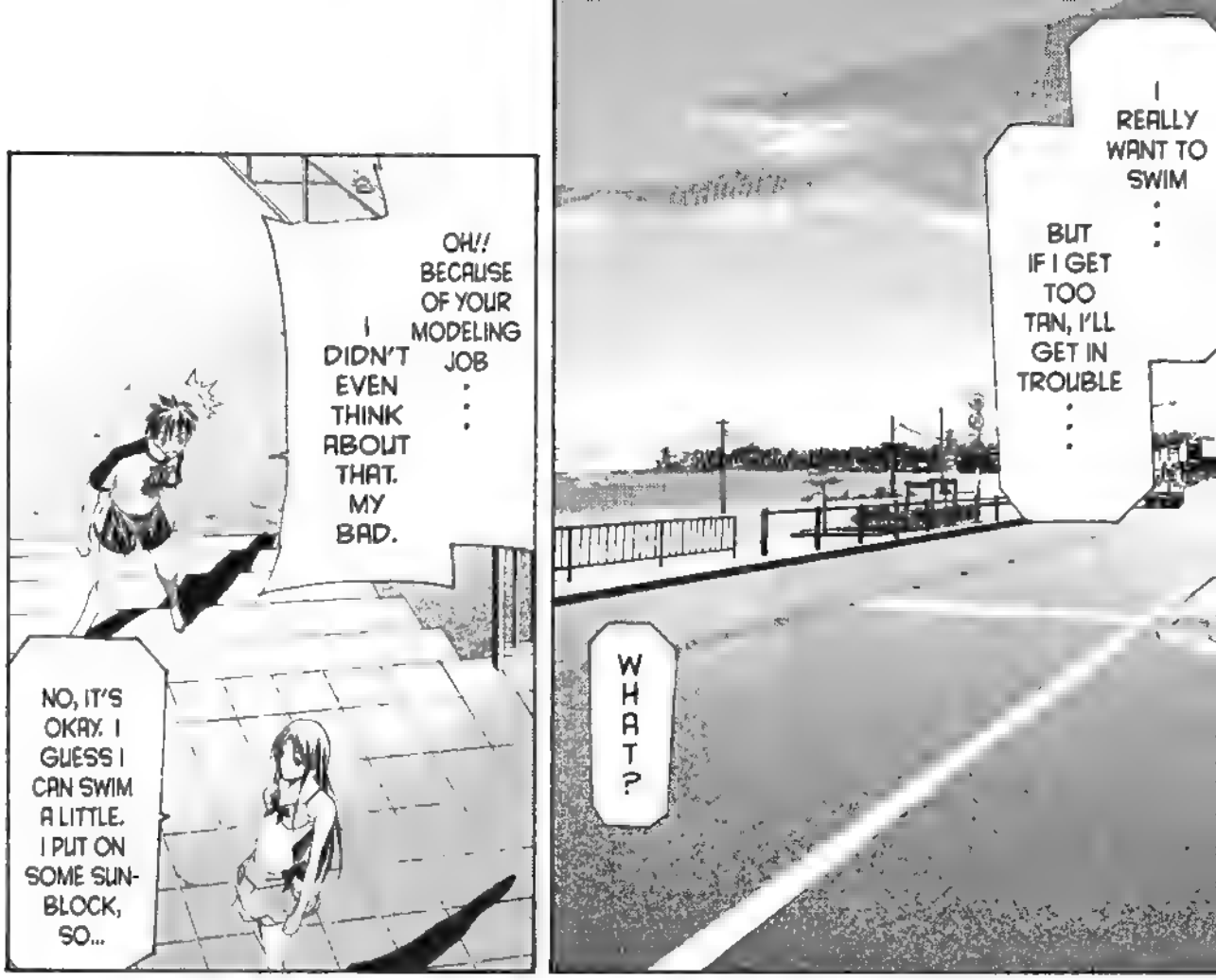

WHY DON'T YOU PLAY BEACH VOLLEYBALL WITH EVERYONE ELSE?
KEEP BOOGIE-BOARDING AND I GUARANTEE YOUR BOOBS ARE GONNA POP OUT.
QUIT TALKING ABOUT MY BOOBS! JUST GO AWAY.

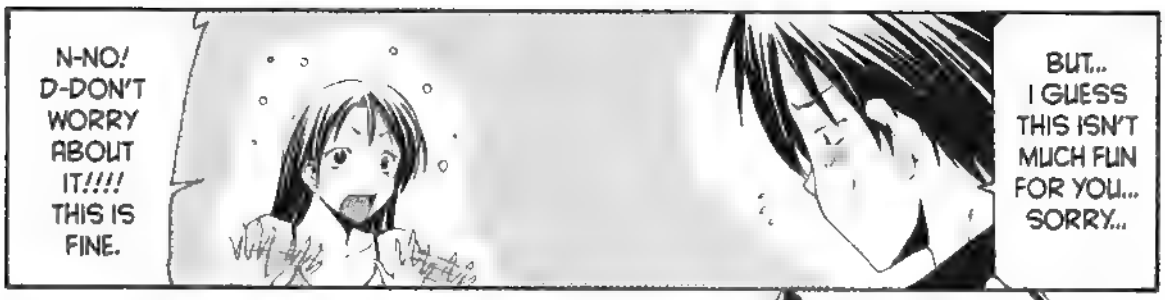
WHAT WERE YOU TWO DOING?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH... YEAH, AKITSUK ALMOST DROWNED, BUT.
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE.
COUGH

AH... WHERE'S SAKURAI-SAN?
WHY ISN'T SHE IN THE WATER? DOESN'T SHE WANNA SWIM?
I SAW HER AT THE SNACK BAR.
SHE WAS SITTING THERE ALL ALONE...
ALONE? I THOUGHT SHE WAS WITH KOBAYAKAWA.
HE STEPPED ON A PIECE OF GLASS AND HAD TO GO TO THE FIRST AID CENTER.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HONOKA-CHAN...
BEACHSIDE INN
GRILLED SQUID, DRINKS, ODEN, YAKI-SOBA

NAH, SHE'S GOTTA BE HERE WITH A DUDE.
SHE'S DEFINITELY HERE BY HERSELF! LET'S GO TALK TO HER!
CLINK
REALLY? I DON'T KNOW... I SAY SHE'S BY HERSELF.
A HOT CHICK LIKE HER WOULDN'T BE AT THE BEACH ALONE.
HEY, HONOKA-CHAN. LET'S GO SWIM!

AKITSUKI-KUN . . .
ARE YOU BORED HANGING OUT HERE? LET'S GO!
O-OKAY.
SEE. TOLD YA SO.
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU SICK OR SOME-THING?
N-NO, I'M FINE.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO WORRY YOU.
GRILLED SQUID, ODEN
AH...HEY! DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR A STROLL ON THE BOARD-WALK?
THE BOARD-WALK?
W-WELL . . .
WHY DON'T YOU WANNA SWIM? WHAT'S THE POINT OF COMING TO THE BEACH IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA SWIM?


I REALLY WANT TO SWIM
BUT IF I GET TOO TAN, I'LL GET IN TROUBLE
WHAT?
OH!! BECAUSE OF YOUR MODELING JOB
I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT. MY BAD.
NO, IT'S OKAY. I GUESS I CAN SWIM A LITTLE. I PUT ON SOME SUN-BLOCK, SO...


N-NO! D-DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!!!! THIS IS FINE.
BUT... I GUESS THIS ISN'T MUCH FUN FOR YOU... SORRY...

YOU SURE?
YEAH. BESIDES, I GOT TO SEE EVERYBODY
BLEE BIRDS
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE
I WOULDN'T HAVE COME IF I DIDN'T WANT TO.

I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH WORK LATELY. IT'S JUST NICE TO HAVE A DAY OFF!
ALL RIGHT...
IF YOU SAY SO...
IT'S PRETTY AMAZING, HONOKA-CHAN.
I MEAN, YOU'VE BEEN IN TONS OF MAGAZINES AND STUFF LATELY.
IF YOU KEEP IT UP, PRETTY SOON YOU'LL BE—
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?

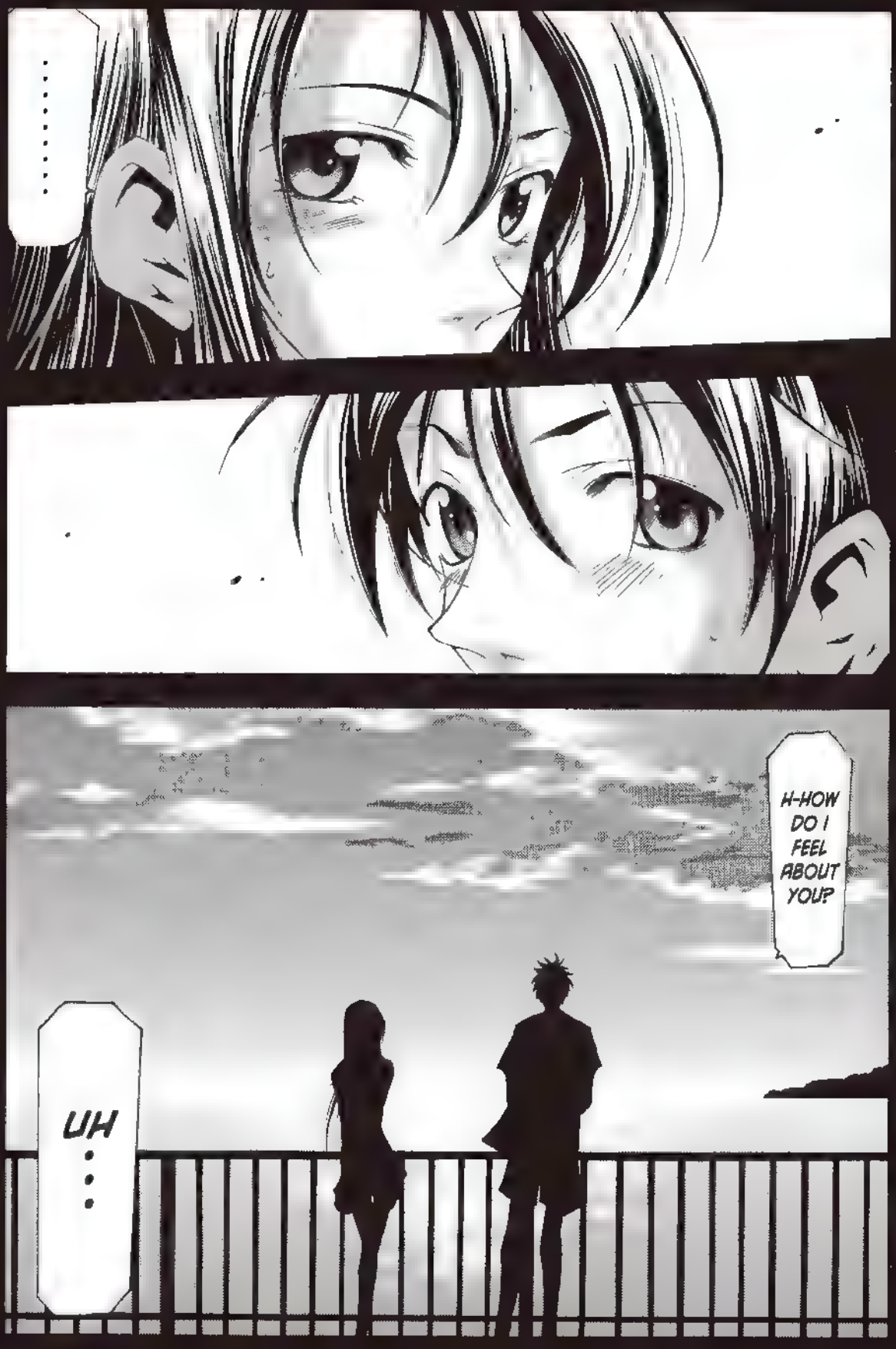
I OWE ALL THIS TO YOU, AKITSUKI-KUN.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO SUP-PORTIVE.
WHAT?
NAH... I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
STEP

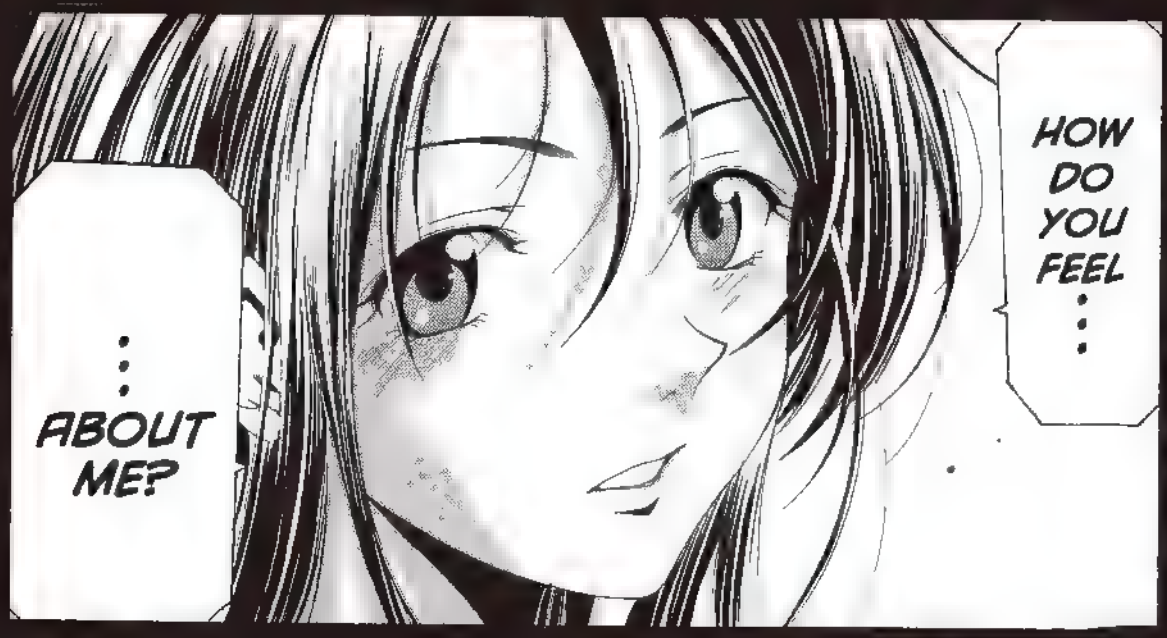
THE OCEAN IS SO BEAUTIFUL.
I'M REALLY GLAD I CAME.
WHAT?
AH... YEAH...
HH
HH
P
P
?!

AKITSUKI KUN... THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU...
YEAH?
.....

HOW DO YOU FEEL...

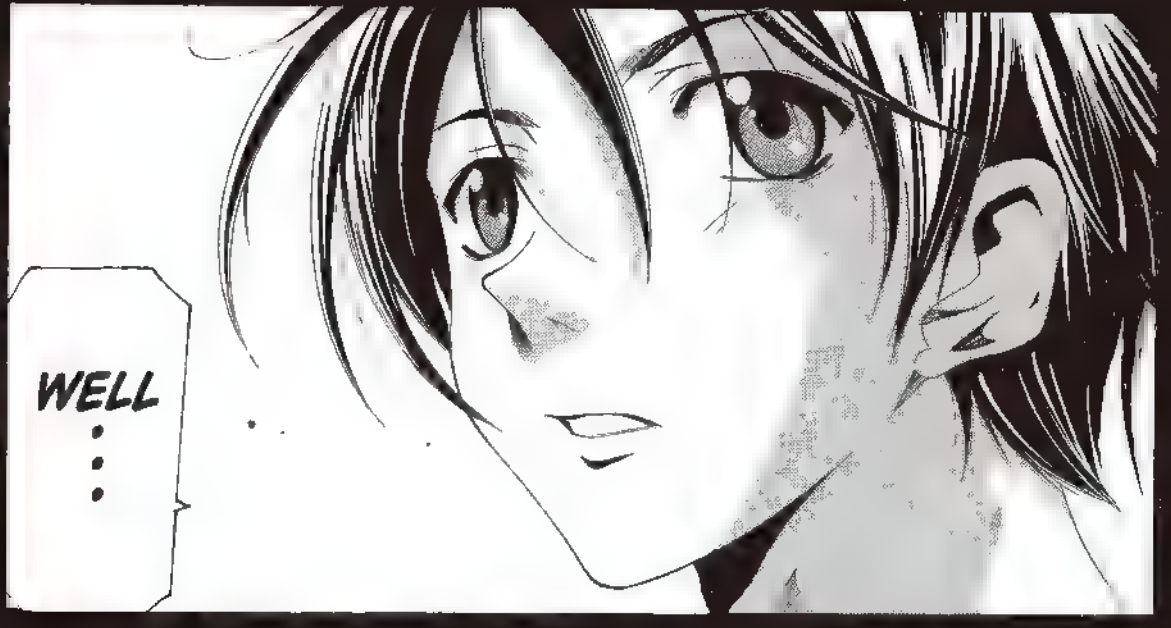
...
ABOUT ME?


.....
H-HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT YOU?
UH...



SUZUKA

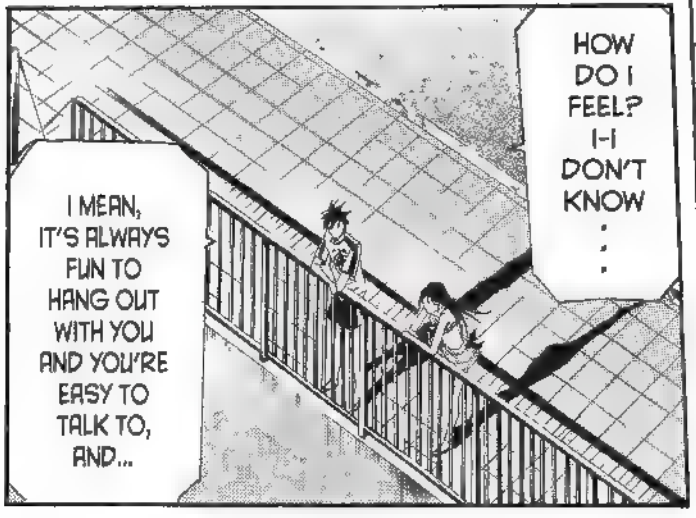
#123 THE QUESTION



ZAAAA

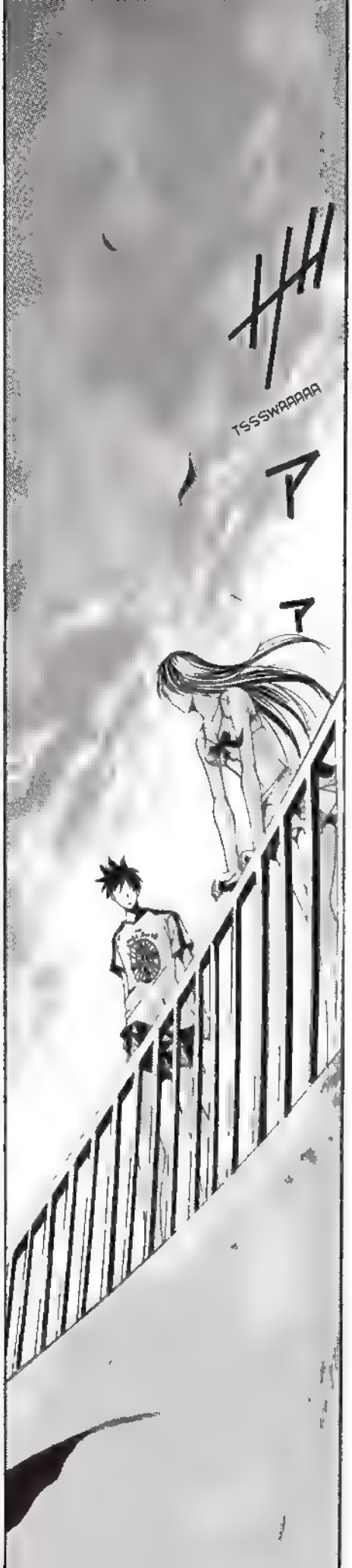
I WAS JUST WONDERING... THAT'S ALL.
.....

UH...
...WHY ARE YOU—


I MEAN, IT'S ALWAYS FUN TO HANG OUT WITH YOU AND YOU'RE EASY TO TALK TO, AND...
HOW DO I FEEL? I-I DON'T KNOW...

UM...
OH, AND YOU GIVE PRETTY GOOD ADVICE...
BLESSINGS
SO...
I GUESS, I'D SAY YOU'RE REALLY SPECIAL TO ME.
WELL...

DO YOU WANNA GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN?
WHAT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME!?
NO……
AH……
WAIT……
AH……

TSSSWAAAAA

TEE HEE. I'M JUST KIDDING.

STEP 9
I HAD YOU, DIDN'T I?
WHAT?

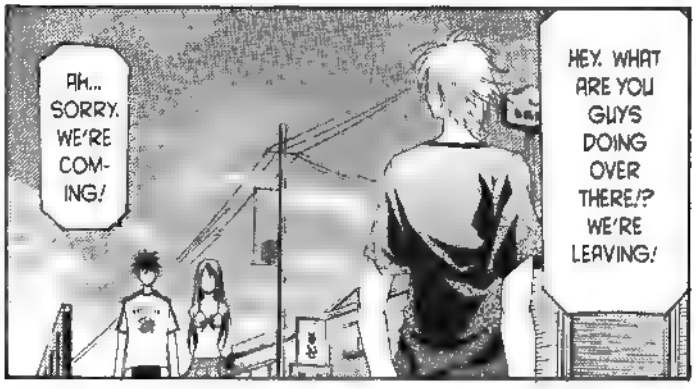
SHALL WE GO?
EVERYONE'S PROBABLY LOOKING FOR US.

I WAS JUST JOKING AROUND...

AH
SO SHE WAS JUST KIDDING

OH YEAH?

BLESSINGS


AH... SORRY. WE'RE COMING!
HEY. WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING OVER THERE!? WE'RE LEAVING!

WERE YOU SURPRISED?
O-OF COURSE! I TOTALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE SERIOUS!

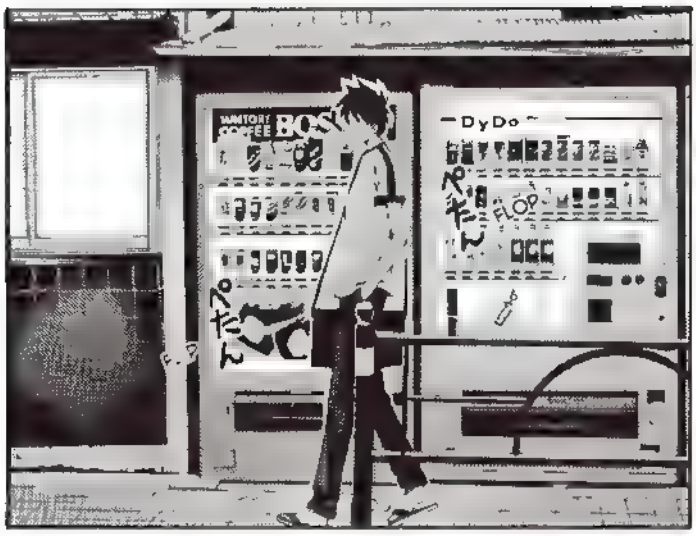
TSSS

OH, REALLY? I WONDER WHAT'S UP.
SHE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU. SHE GOT A CALL FROM AYANO-SAN.

ANYWAY, SHE SAID SHE HAD TO GO TAKE CARE OF SOME-THING.
MAYBE SHE JUST WANTED TO WALK HOME WITH HER BELOVED YAMATO-KUN.

YEAH! I WANT PASTA !!
LET'S GET SOME-THING TO EAT ON THE WAY BACK.
AH... ALL RIGHT...

AH... WHERE'S MIHO-CHAN?
SHE ALREADY LEFT WITH TSUYOSHI.

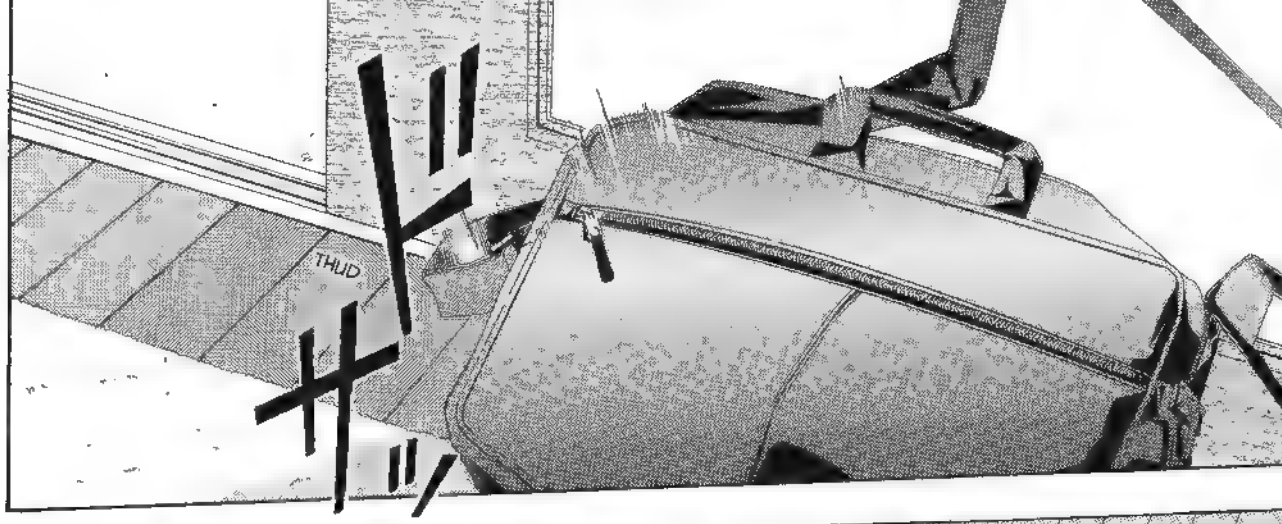

SUNTORY COFFEE BOSS
DyDo
ペチャ
FLOP
ペチャ

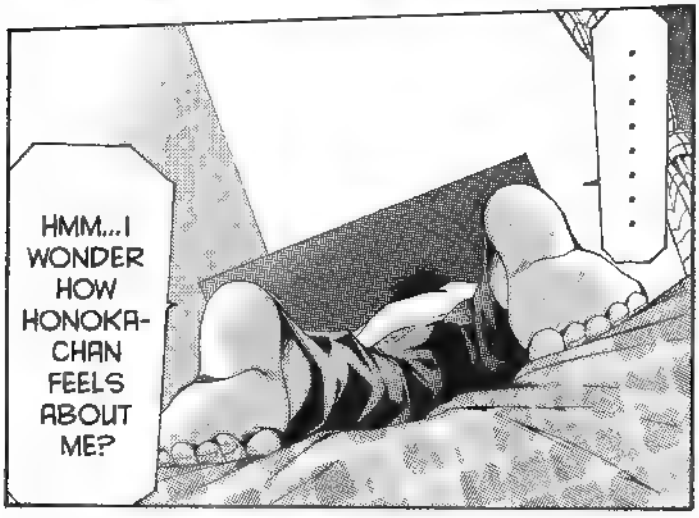
DO YOU WANNA GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN !?

WAS SHE REALLY . . .
. . . JUST KIDDING ?

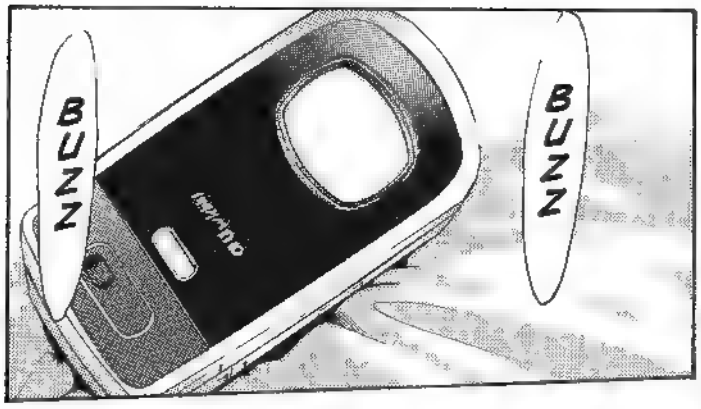
I JUST DID SOMETHING REALLY STUPID
BLESSINGS
IF SHE ACTUALLY WAS SERIOUS, THEN . . .
I'M BEAT TIME FOR BED
カリン
WELL NO POINT IN THINKING ABOU . . .
AH . . . BUT . . .
カリン子
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN JOKING . . . RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU SO LATE?
AH TAMATO KUN

NO, I'M STILL WORKING.
OH, HEY . . . DID YOU GET YOUR ERRAND TAKEN CARE OF?
CLICK
SORRY BUT... I GOTTA GET SOME SLEEP.
I'LL HELP YOU TOMOR-ROW.
SLAM
HMMPH!!
JERK!!
IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING MAYBE YOU COULD GIVE ME A HAND.
I CAN'T DO IT ALL BY MYSELF.

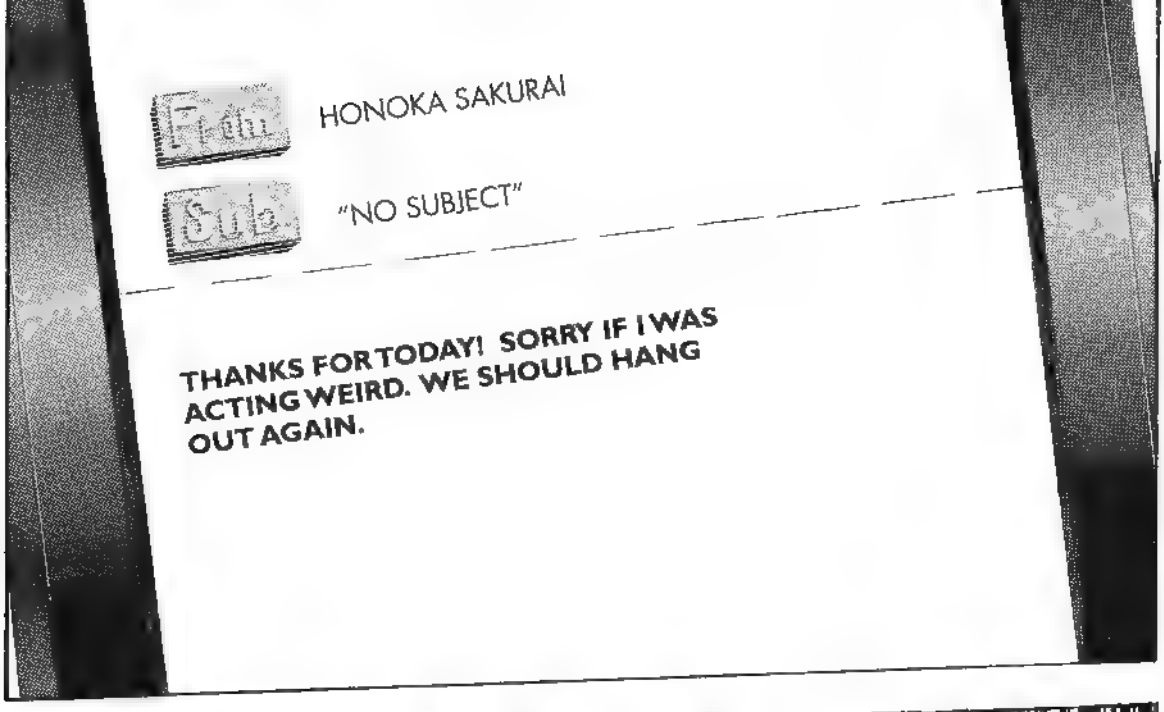

THUD

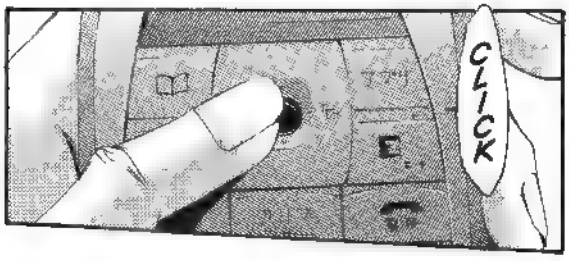

HMM...I WONDER HOW HONOKA-CHAN FEELS ABOUT ME?
.....

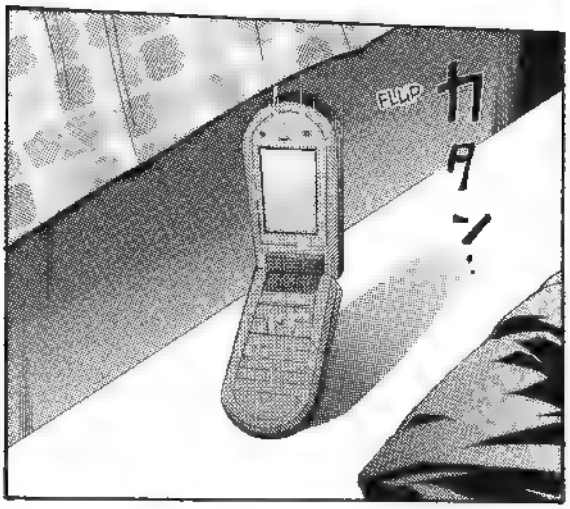
OH MY GOD... I'M SO TIRED...
FLUMP
!!


BUZZ
BUZZ

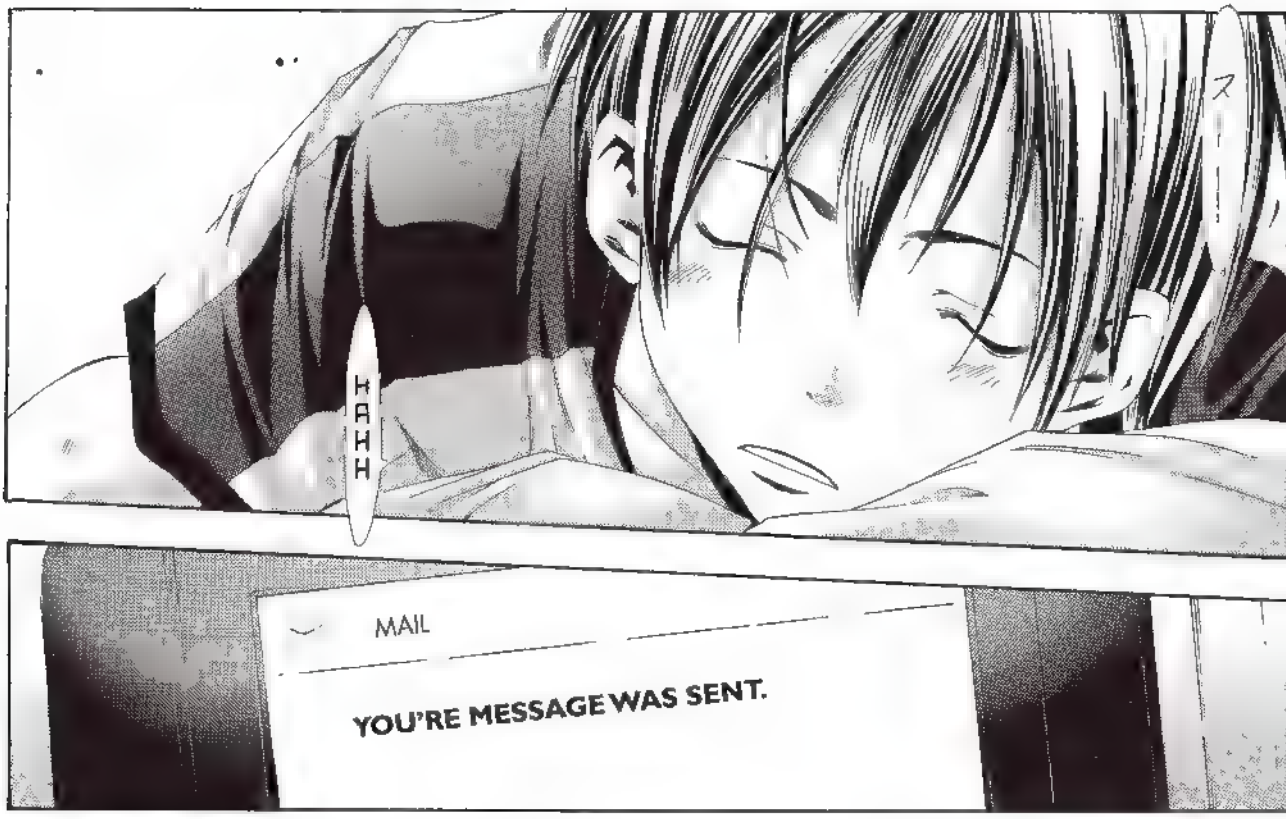
A TEXT?


From
HONOKA SAKURAI
Sub
"NO SUBJECT"
THANKS FOR TODAY! SORRY IF I WAS ACTING WEIRD. WE SHOULD HANG OUT AGAIN.

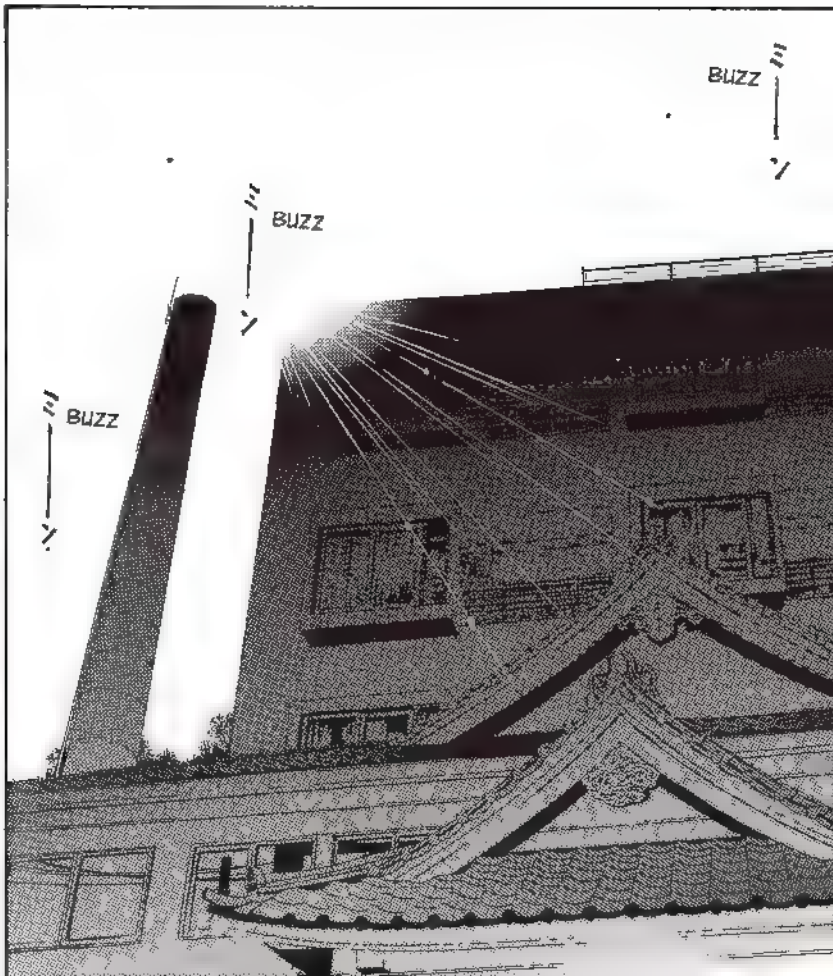

CLICK


FLIP
ナ
ヲ
ー!

MAYBE I'LL . . .
CLICK
CLICK
...ASK HER TO GO SOME-WHERE AGAIN . . .

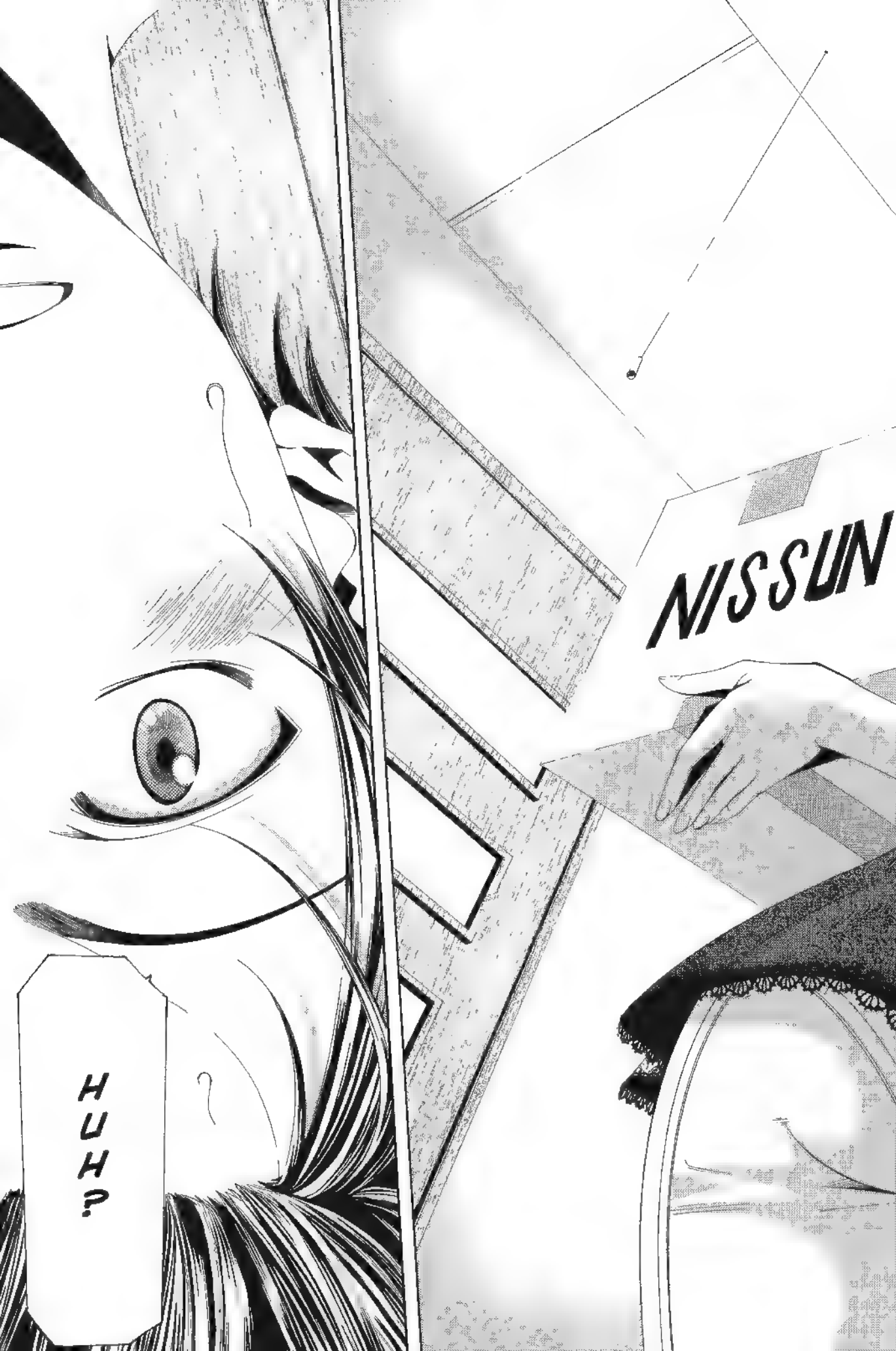

HAHH
MAIL
YOU'RE MESSAGE WAS SENT.

CLACK...


Buzz
Buzz
Buzz

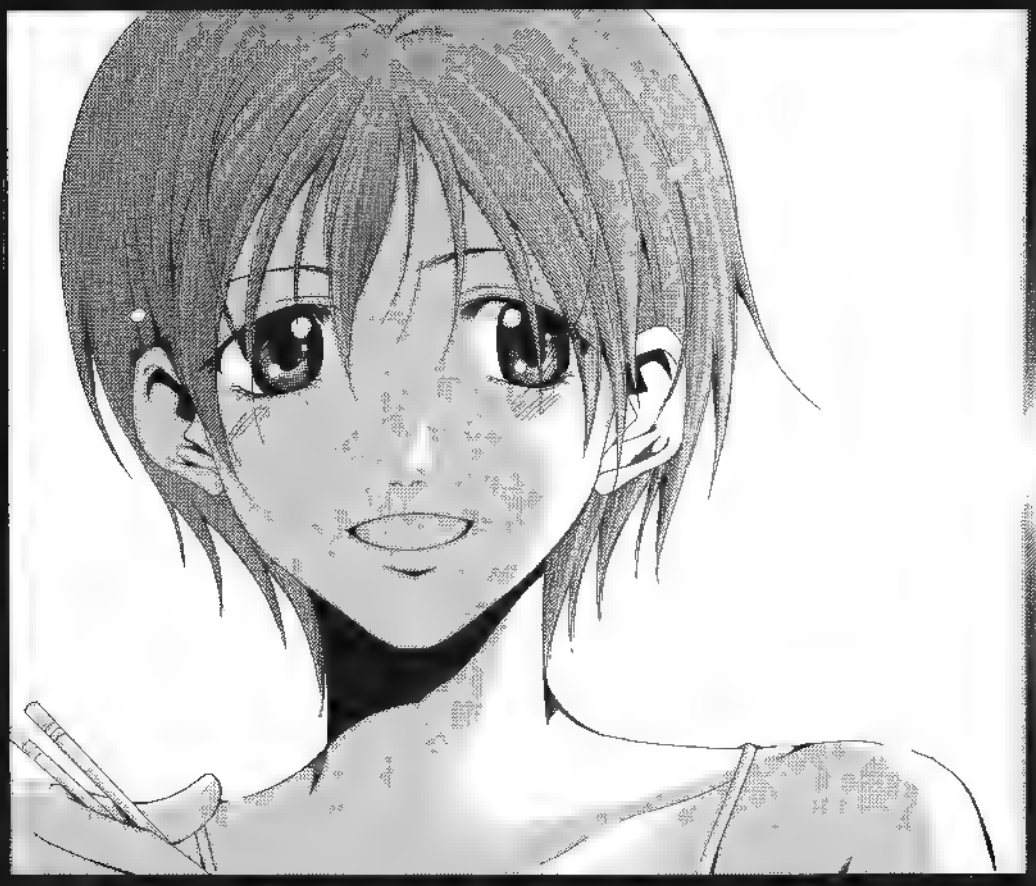
HMM...
CLANK
WHAT THE HELL? IT'S TOO EARLY FOR ALL THIS RACKET.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
CLANKA
CLACK
HEY, MIHO-CHAN?
PLUP
COULD YA KEEP IT DOWN? I'M TRYING TO SLEEP.
THUD

NO.


NISSUN
HUH?

AH...
I'M BACK.
.....
NO.
NISSUN
WHAT?
NISSUN

SUZUKA
CLINK
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE THE FOUR OF US HAVE HAD BREAKFAST TOGETHER LIKE THIS!
SORRY FOR CHASING YOU OUT OF YOUR ROOM, MIHO-CHAN.
GLANCE ちらっ
CRUNCH ポリ
CRUNCH ポリ
.....
IT'S FINE. SHE WAS GETTING TIRED OF LIVING ON HER OWN ANY WAY.
YEAH, ONLY BECAUSE YOU WERE CHECKING IN ON ME ALL THE TIME, MOM.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH



SUZUKA

#124 THE DINNER

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HER.
SLURP ズズ
I WANT TO GO TOO.
OH, YEAH?
YEAH.
WHAT'S SHE DOING BACK . . .
. . . SO QUICKLY?
HUH? WHERE'S THE SOY SAUCE?
WAA! IT'S RIGHT NEXT TO HER.
ドキッ SHOCK
SHIT... SHE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT ME!
PLUNK コトッ
THERE YOU GO.
AH . . .

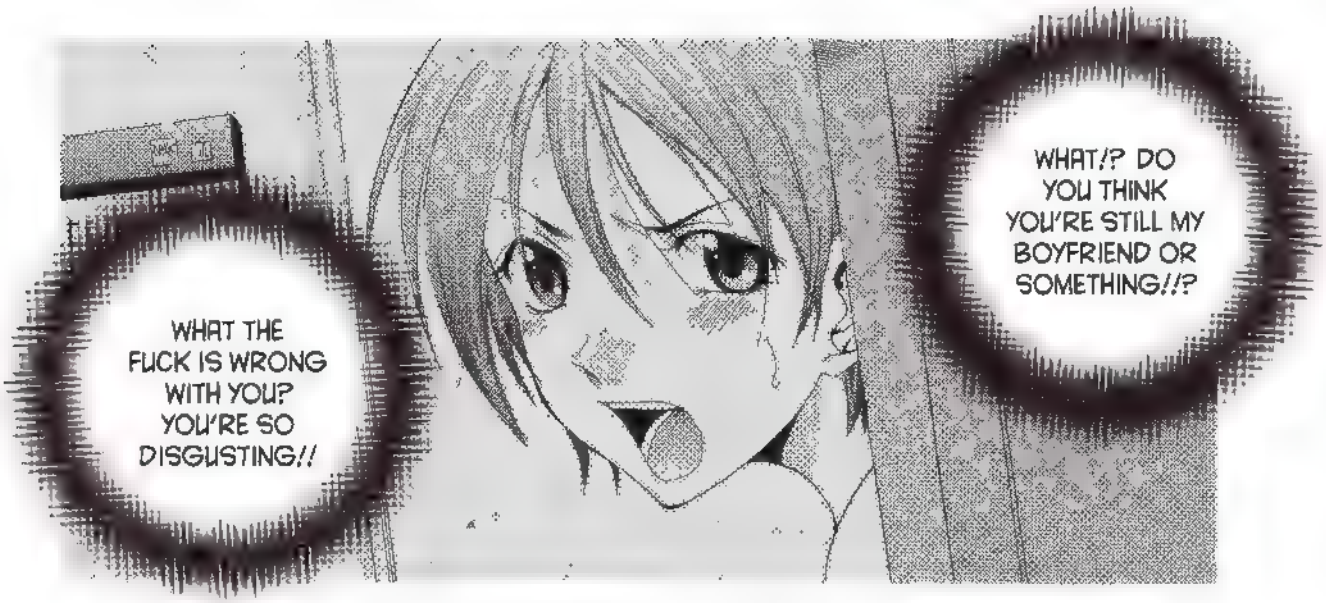
I DON'T USE THAT MUCH.
OH... I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE STILL USING IT.
IF YOU WANT ME TO PASS THE SOY SAUCE...
. . .
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK.
THAT WAS PATHETIC.
AH . . .
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE . . .
...SINCE SHE'S THE ONE WHO BROKE UP WITH ME... PROBABLY MAKES ME WAY MORE SELF CONSCIOUS.
SHE'S ACTING TOTALLY CALM AND NATURAL.
AND I'M ALL NERVOUS AND TENSE.

I SAID I'M GOING TO BE HOME LATE TONIGHT. CAN YOU HANDLE GETTING DINNER ON YOUR OWN?
GEEZ. WERE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?
Y-YEAH !? WHAT !!?
YAMATO-KUN!!
ARE YOU SURE? WELL, OKAY THEN...
I'LL FIND SOMETHING TO EAT.
OH! YEAH... I'LL BE FINE!!
.....
CRUNCH
I'M GOING OUT WITH SOME FRIENDS TONIGHT, SO I'LL JUST EAT OUT.
I'LL BE FINE TOO. DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.
OKAY, THANKS.

301

YAMATO AKITSUKI

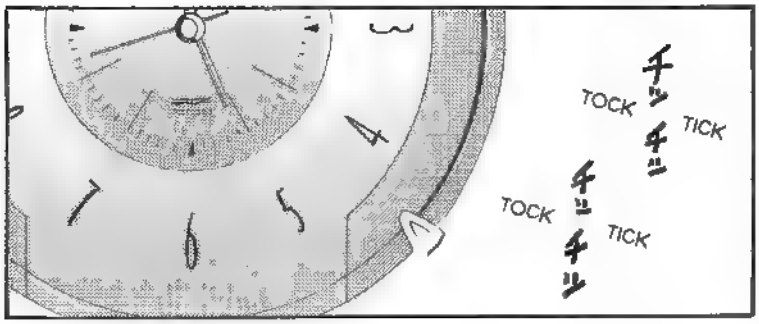
BESIDES, IF SHE FINDS OUT I STILL LIKE HER, IT'LL ONLY MAKE ME FEEL WORSE.
NO, NO, NO...WHAT GIRL WANTS TO HAVE DINNER WITH A GUY SHE DUMPED. IT'S TOO CREEPY.
ROLL
ROLL
302
SUZUKA ASAKINA
I THINK I'D RATHER EAT ALONE.
SORRY...
BUT SHE ALWAYS ACTS EVEN MORE DRAMATIC THAN I EXPECT, SO, MAYBE IT'D BE MORE LIKE...
YEAH, I COULD TOTALLY SEE HER SAYING THAT.
OR MAYBE SHE'D BE LIKE "WHAT ARE YOU STUPID?"
FLIP
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT SHE'D SAY.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
YEP, I COULD DEFINITELY SEE HER SAYING THAT...
SPEEDHIBTH


WHAT THE FUCK IS WRONG WITH YOU? YOU'RE SO DISGUSTING!!
WHAT!? DO YOU THINK YOU'RE STILL MY BOYFRIEND OR SOMETHING!!?

I'D BETTER JUST FORGET THE WHOLE THING.
FWUMP
WHO AM I KIDDING?

OUCH... THAT'D BE HARSH.
I WOULDN'T WANNA HEAR HER SAY THAT... EVEN IF IT IS TRUE.

BUT... I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS FOREVER
. . .
. . . . . .


TOCK
TICK
TOCK
TICK

SHIT...
GRWWLLL
NOW I'M TOTALLY STARVING.
CREAK
ALL RIGHT!! I'M JUST GONNA ASK HER LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
RING RING RING
HUH...
AH...
IT'S HONOKA-CHAN.
BUZZ
BUZZ
桜井萌実

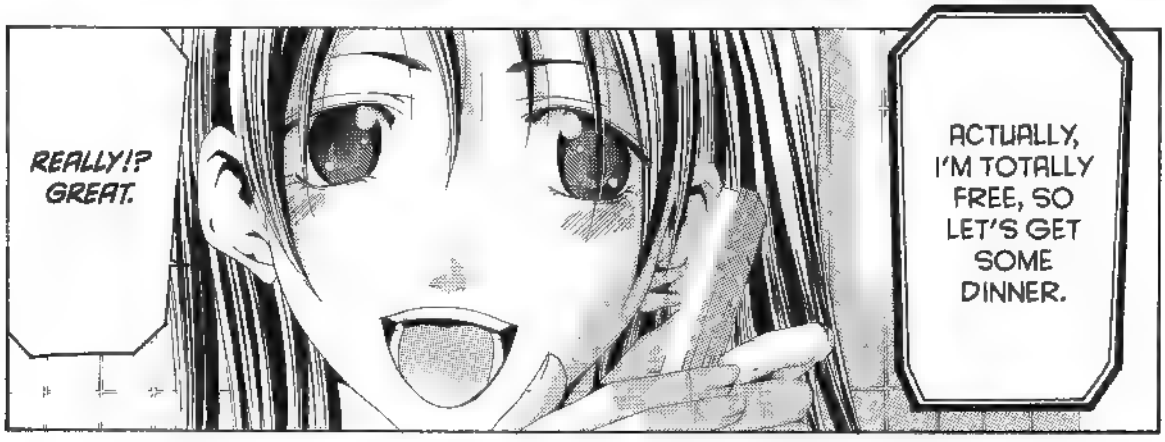
A-AKITSUKI-KUN?
CREAK
H-HELLO !!

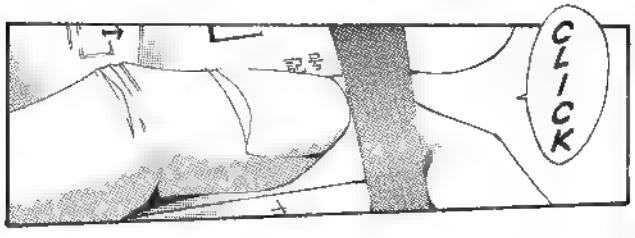
WHY?
NO, NOT YET.

IS SOME-THING WRONG, HONOKA-CHAN? YOU NEVER CALL ME.
N-NO. HAVE YOU EATEN DINNER YET?

AH...I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME-THING...
I THOUGHT WE COULD HAVE DINNER TOGETHER.

TOBU TOJO LINE,
NARIMASU STATION SOUTH EXIT
N-NO...! I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.
AH.. IF YOU ALREADY HAVE OTHER PLANS, THEN—
WELL...


REALLY!? GREAT.
ACTUALLY, I'M TOTALLY FREE, SO LET'S GET SOME DINNER.


CLICK

WELL...
FWAP
ACTION TARGET

WHERE ARE YOU NOW? OH, OKAY...
I'LL BE RIGHT OVER. JUST GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES... OKAY... BYE.

DING
DONG
HUH?
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ASAHINA LATER.
CREAK
YEAH...

WHAT ARE YOU...
...DOING FOR DINNER TONIGHT, YAMATO-KUN?
A-ASAHINA!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DID YOU WANT SOME-THING!?
N-NO...
HUH?
W-WHAT AM I DOING...FOR DINNER...?
YOU TOLD RYANO-SAN YOU WERE GONNA FIND SOME-THING TO EAT ON YOUR OWN, SO...

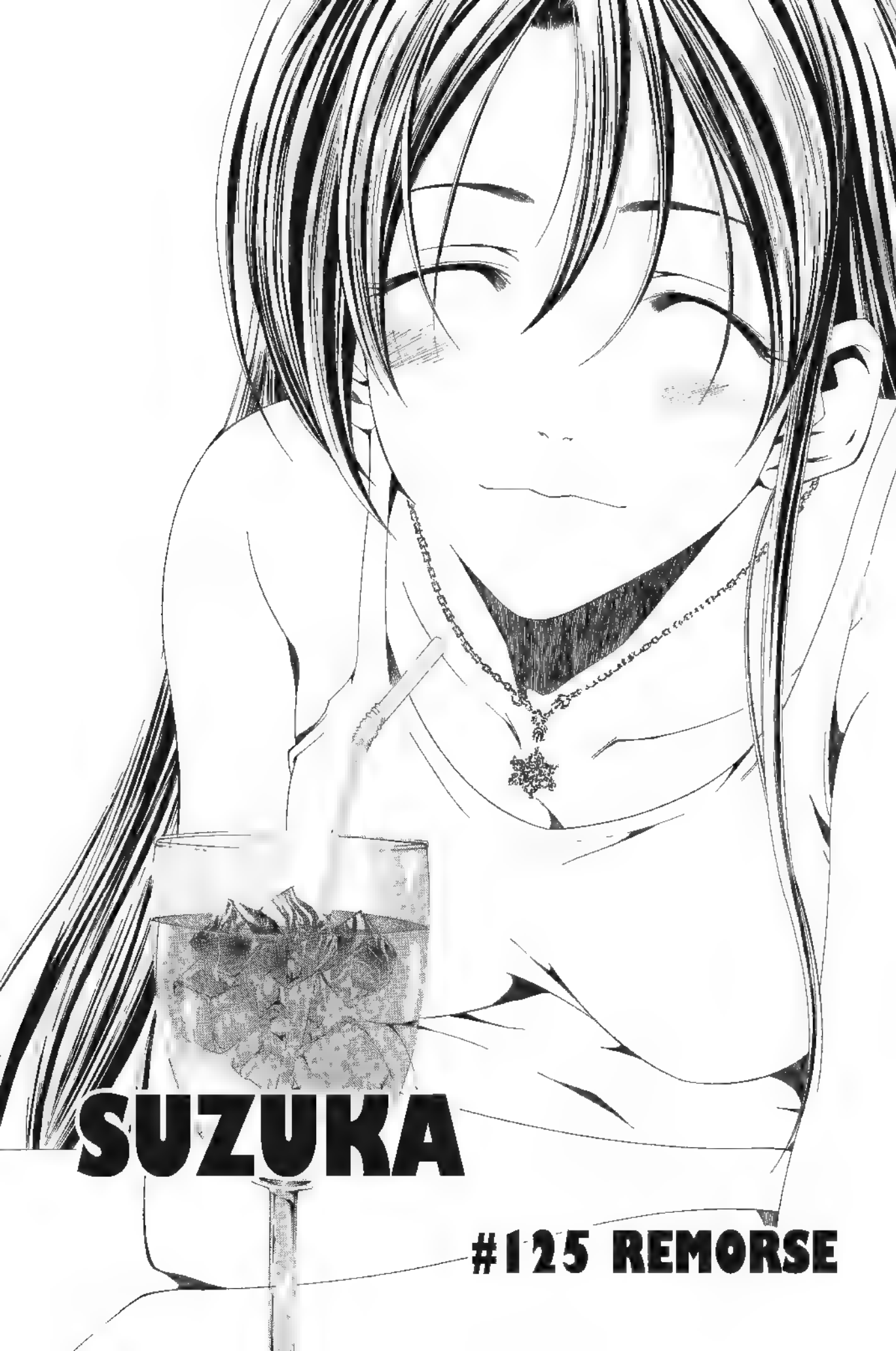
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD GO OUT FOR DINNER TOGETHER.
W-WHAT THE HELL!?
S-SHE ACTUALLY ASKED ME TO DINNER.
ACTION TARGET
SPEED HIGH
. . . !?
WHAT!?

AH...
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO IT'S OKAY.
...?
MAYBE ALL HER OTHER FRIENDS TURNED HER DOWN OR SOMETHING.
BUT STILL... WHY WOULD SHE ASK ME!?
R-REALLY?
I REALLY WANT TO GO!!
I-I WANT TO!!
I DON'T GET HER AT ALL. WHY WOULD SHE WANNA HAVE DINNER WITH ME?
ACTION TARGET
SPEED HIGTH
DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S COMPLETELY OVER ME?
...OR ...COULD IT MEAN THE OPPOSITE?

D-DOES...
SHE STILL LIKE ME?
AH...!
W-WHAT IS IT?
SHIT...I JUST MADE PLANS WITH HONOKA-CHAN...
SORRY... ACTUALLY... I HAVE OTHER PLANS...
OH...
WHAT?
STEP
OKAY. WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT TO BEGIN WITH?

ALL RIGHT.
HAVE FUN THEN.
UH... A-ASAHINA!?
AH...
カン
CLOPPA
カン
CLOPPA
SHE JUST WANTED TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME... AND NOTHING MORE.
I GUESS...
.....
HEH, HEH
I'M SO LAME.
WELL, WHATEVER...
I ALREADY HAVE PLANS WITH HONOKA-CHAN ANYWAY.

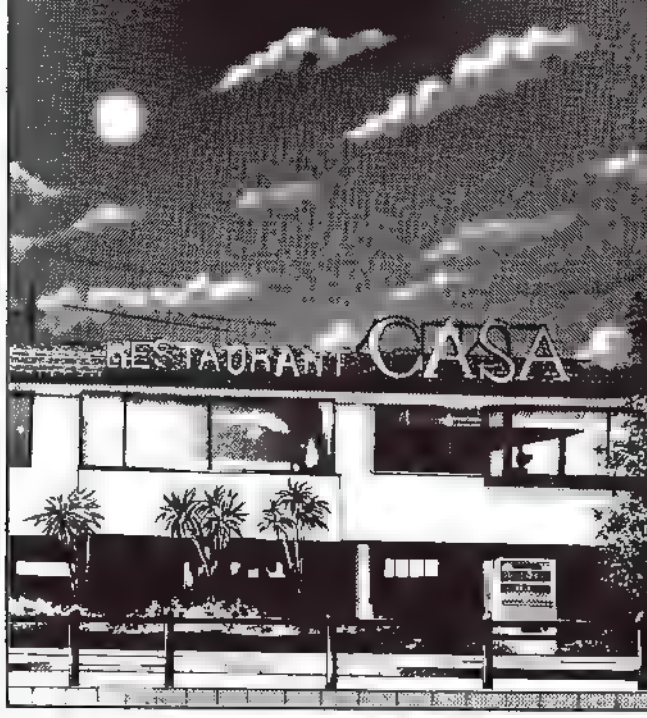
SUZUKA ASAHINA
WELL, AT LEAST SHE DOESN'T HATE ME . . .
NO REASON TO RUSH THINGS.

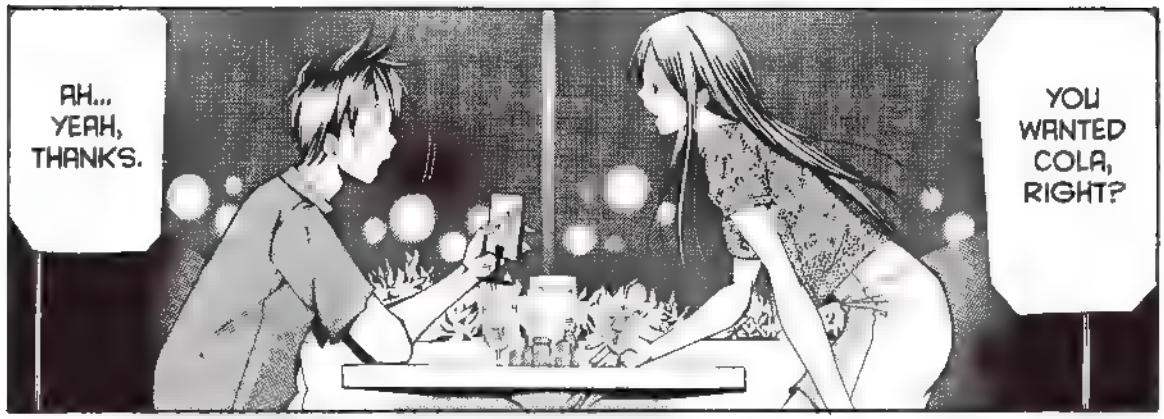


SUZUKA

#125 REMORSE

HERE YOU GO.


RESTAURANT CASA


AH... YEAH, THANKS.
YOU WANTED COLA, RIGHT?

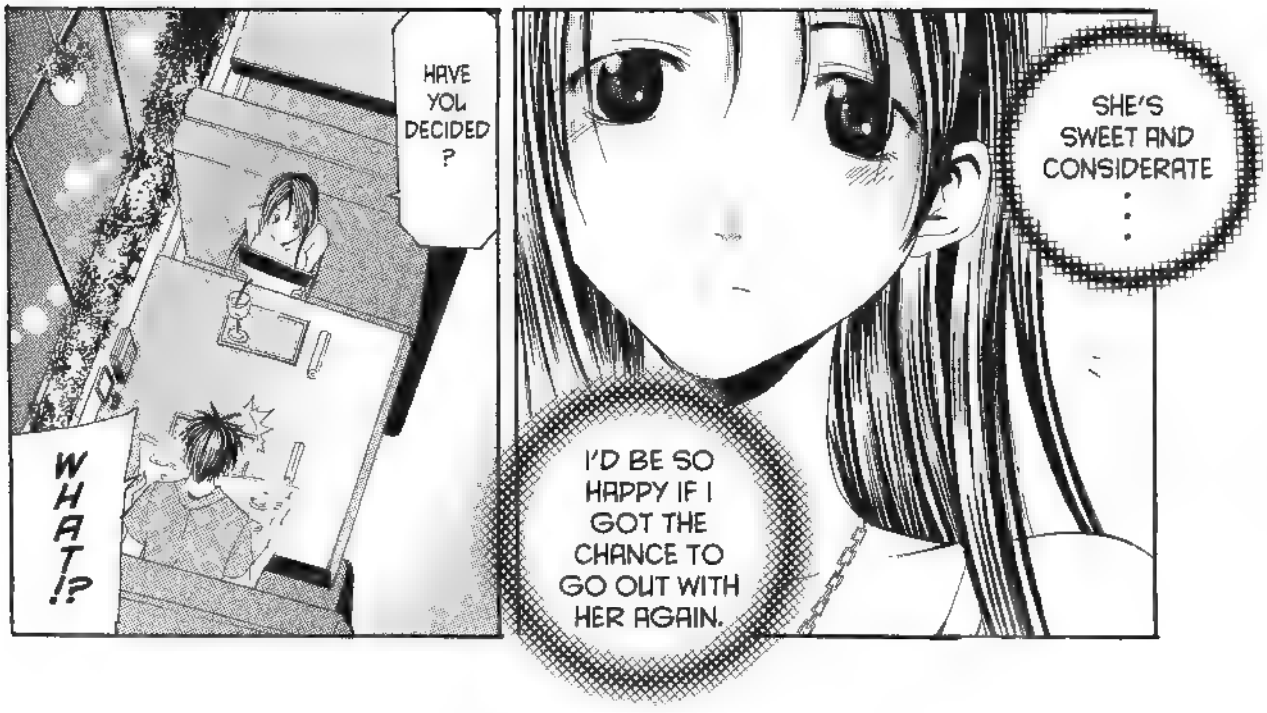
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES . . .
. . . WE'VE BEEN HERE TO-GETHER ?

HOW DID YOU KNOW I WANTED COLA?
MENU
OH COME ON . . .

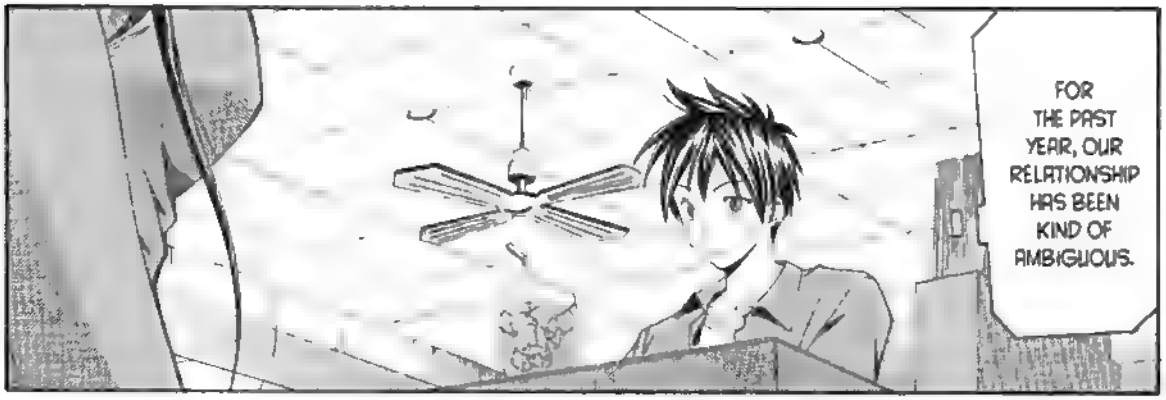
WE USED TO EAT HERE ALL THE TIME.
O-OH YEAH...
YEAH...
A, HA, HA. I DO?
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT, BUT YOU END UP ORDERING THE SAME THING IN THE END.
AND YOU ALWAYS ORDER THE HAMBURGER SET MEAL, RIGHT?
WELL, NOT TODAY!
.....

WHAT SHOULD I GET?

HONOKA-CHAN...
...REALLY IS CUTE.


SHE'S SWEET AND CONSIDERATE...
I'D BE SO HAPPY IF I GOT THE CHANCE TO GO OUT WITH HER AGAIN.
HAVE YOU DECIDED?
WHAT!?

SEE? TOLD YA SO.
HAMBURGER SET
1350 YEN
*EXTRA RICE—100
AH... I THINK I'LL JUST HAVE THE USUAL!!
HAVE YOU GUYS DECIDED ?
YES, ONE HAM-BURGER SET...
AND A CLUB SAND-WICH, PLEASE.
WELL . . .
DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN!?
. . . . . .


FOR THE PAST YEAR, OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN KIND OF AMBIGUOUS.

BUT...
SHE SAID SHE WAS JUST JOKING THE OTHER DAY...

BUT... IF SHE TURNED ME DOWN, WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO HANG OUT LIKE THIS AGAIN.
SLURP

MAYBE THINGS ARE BETTER OFF AS THEY ARE...
HEY!

WHAT IF I ASKED HER TO GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN?
WOULD SHE SAY "YES"?

AH... I DON'T KNOW...
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK WE CAME HERE TOGETHER?
!?
Y-YEAH!?
.....
AH... YEAH...
ME EITHER...
BUT WE CAME HERE A LOT...
BUT...
THIS MIGHT BE OUR LAST TIME.
WHAT?

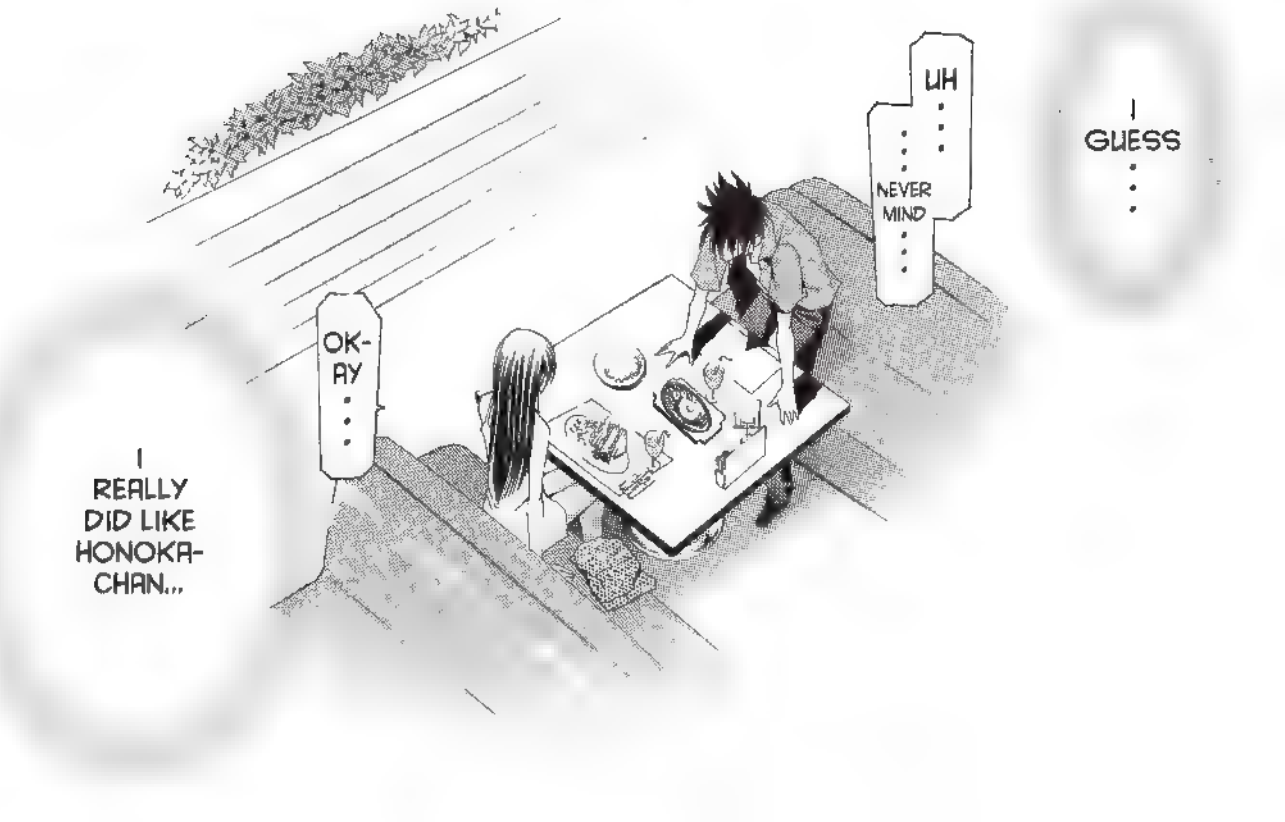
!
. . .
. . .
HAVE A NEW BOY-FRIEND.
. . . . . .
HUH ?

A-A NEW BOY-FRIEND !?
YEAH...
W-WHO? IS HE SOMEONE FROM YOUR WORK?
SHOCK
ドクン
YEAH.
I MET HIM DURING A PHOTO SHOOT.
HE ASKED ME THE DAY BEFORE WE WENT TO THE BEACH.
SHOCK
ドクン
AND ...I TOLD HIM I NEEDED A LITTLE TIME.
I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE HIM AN ANSWER TODAY.
SO...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
IT JUST WOULDN'T BE RIGHT.
NO...
WAIT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
MY MIND'S TOTALLY BLANK. I CAN'T EVEN SPEAK.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU FACE-TO-FACE.
.....

.....
AH... THANKS.
HERE YOU ARE. THE HAMBURGER SET AND A CLUB SANDWICH FOR YOU.
Y-YEAH...
DON'T BE SAD. WE CAN STILL TEXT.
LET'S EAT!
.....
THIS SUCKS.

FWUP
LISTEN!!
YEAH?


I GUESS...
UH... NEVER MIND...
OK-AY...
I REALLY DID LIKE HONOKA-CHAN...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I DIDN'T REALIZE IT TILL JUST NOW
カツン
カツン
……
じわ
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT

AAAHHH!!
POOF
TAPPA
TAPPA
W-WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS SMOKE!?
IS THERE A FIRE!?

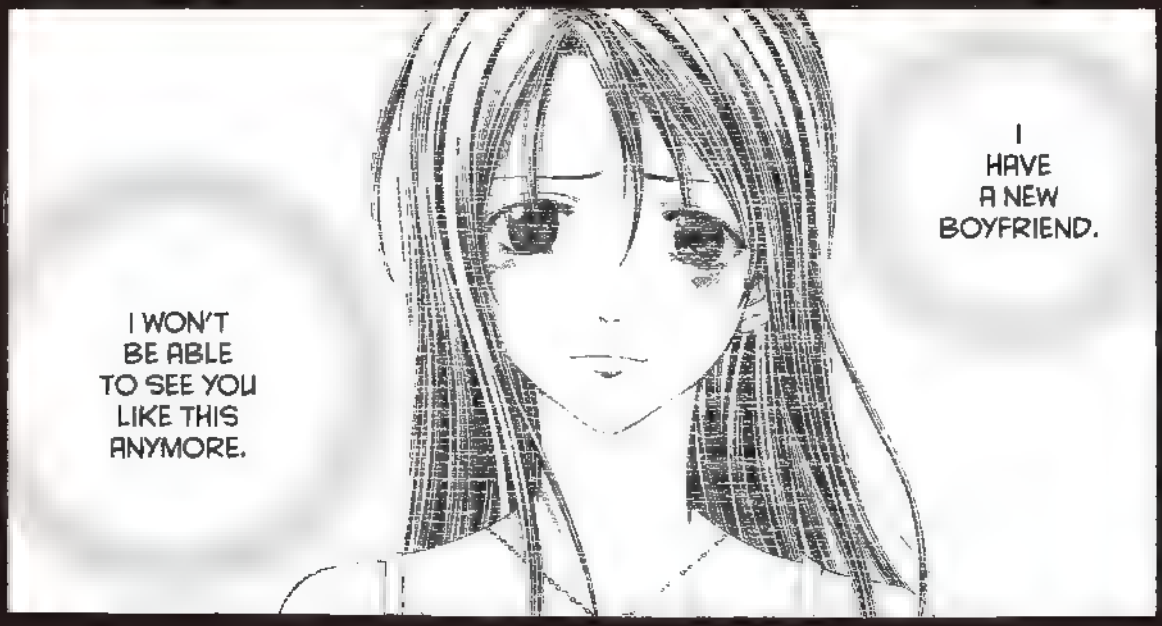
HUH?
NOTH-ING'S ON FIRE.

KNOCK
KNOCK
HUH?
SLIDE
ガラ
WAHHH, IT STINKS LIKE FISH IN HERE.
AH... SORRY ABOUT THE SMOKE... ARE YOU OKAY?
COUGH
COUGH
I HAD THE WINDOWS CLOSED.
I WAS GRILLING MACK-EREL.
THEY'RE IN SEASON, SO...
ASAHINA!! W-WHAT WERE YOU DOING!?
.....
WHAT!? AND YOU DIDN'T OPEN THE WINDOWS?
IT'S COMMON SENSE. WHAT ARE YOU, A CHILD!!?
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SUCH A DISASTER WHENEVER YOU COOK?
.....

SHUT UP !!
I JUST FORGOT, THAT'S ALL!!
ASS-HOLE !!
SLAM
WHAT!?
I THOUGHT MAYBE SHE'D MELLOWED OUT A LITTLE, BUT... APPARENTLY NOT.
NO-THING'S CHANGED. NOT A THING.
HUH?
PLUNK
SLIDE

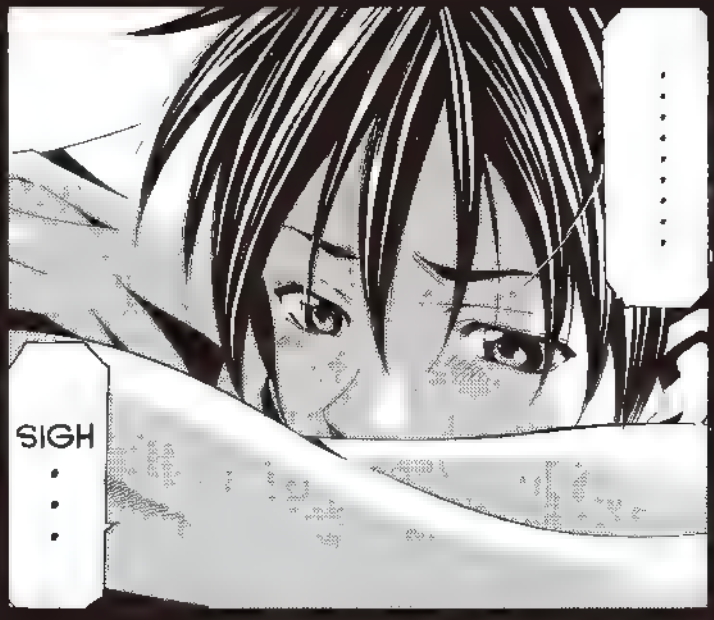
THEY WERE ON SALE, SO I BOUGHT TWO . . .
. . . . . .
AN APOL-OGY ?
. . . YOU CAN HAVE THIS ONE... CONSIDER IT AN APOLOGY.
GOD . . .
I JUST WANTED TO BE LEFT ALONE.

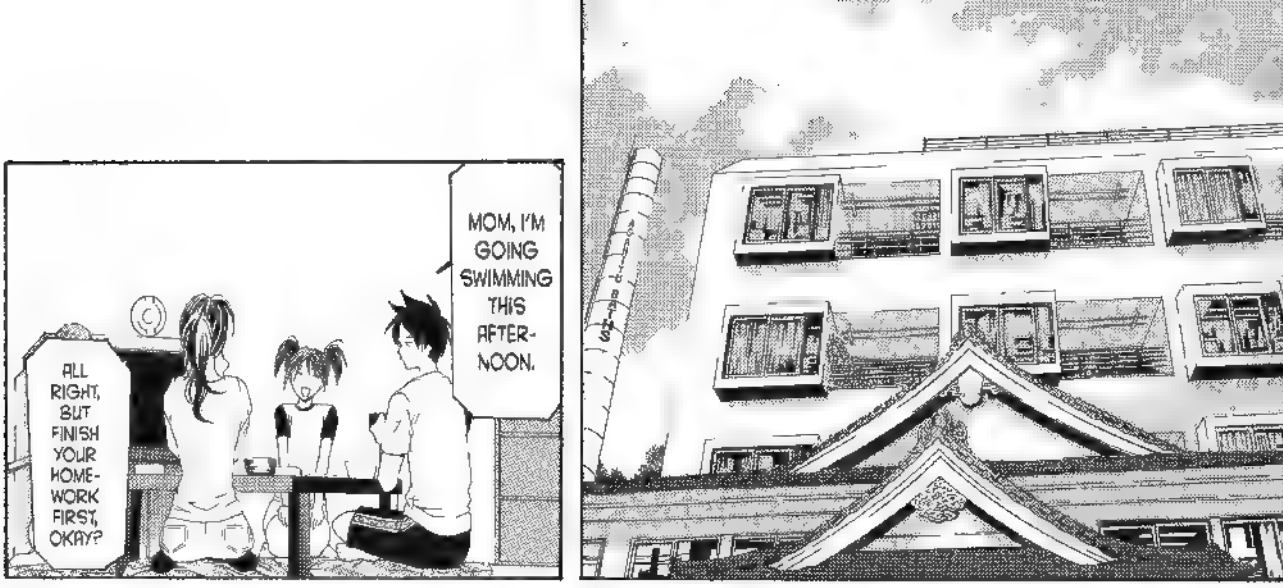
HUH? IT'S BURNT TO A CRISP
WHY IS SHE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
W-WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD BE LAUGHING OR CRYING
THE SMOKE GOT IN MY EYES!!
AH, FORGET IT...



SUZUKA

#126 SAKI

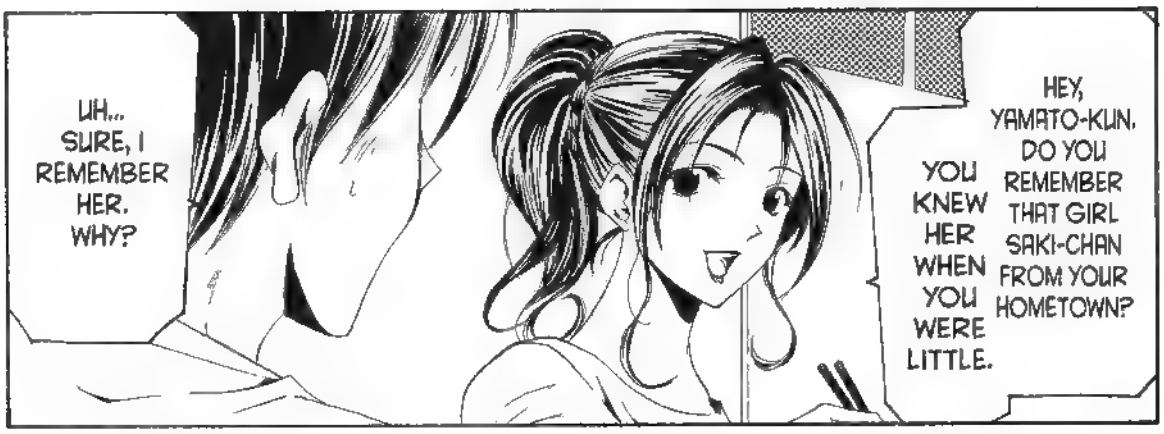


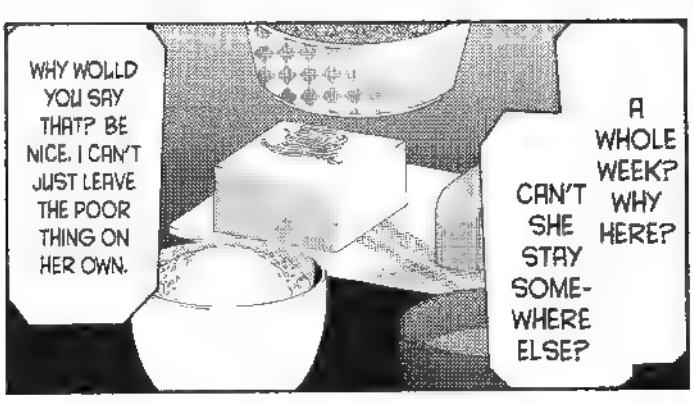

MOM, I'M GOING SWIMMING THIS AFTER-NOON.
ALL RIGHT, BUT FINISH YOUR HOME-WORK FIRST, OKAY?

YEAH, YEAH.
CHOMP
CHOMP

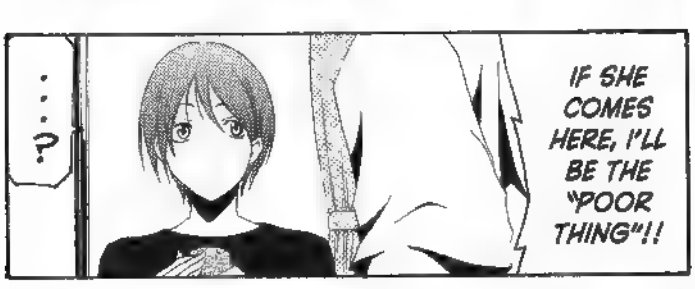
HUH? AH...NO THANKS.
WOULD YOU LIKE A SECOND HELPING, YAMATO-KUN?

NO...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY? THAT "I'M LOVE-SICK"?
SLURP
ズズ:
ARE YOU SICK OR SOME-THING?
THAT'S WEIRD. YOU ALWAYS HAVE SECONDS, YAMATO-KUN.


HEY, YAMATO-KUN. DO YOU REMEMBER THAT GIRL SAKI-CHAN FROM YOUR HOMETOWN?
YOU KNEW HER WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE.
UH... SURE, I REMEMBER HER. WHY?


A WHOLE WEEK? WHY HERE?
CAN'T SHE STAY SOME-WHERE ELSE?
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT? BE NICE. I CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE POOR THING ON HER OWN.

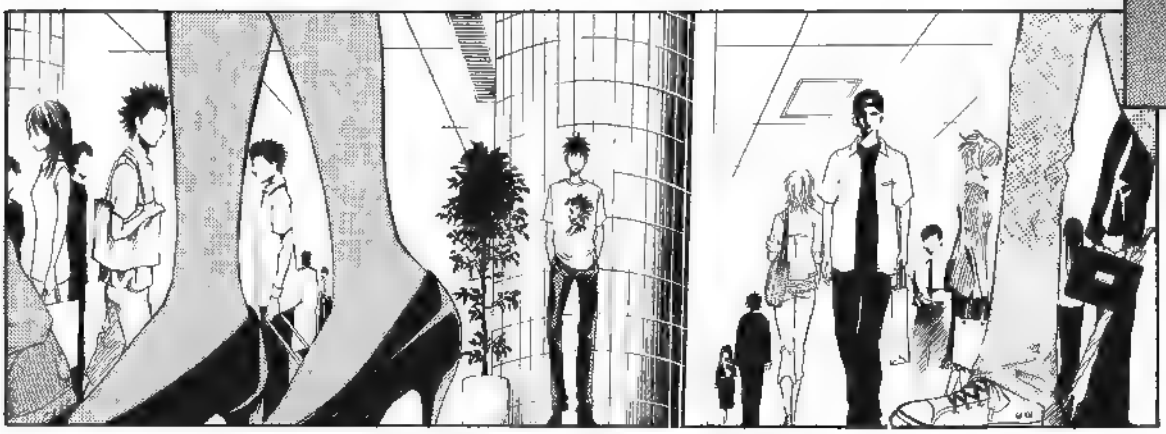
SHE'S THINKING ABOUT GOING TO A TWO-YEAR COLLEGE HERE IN TOKYO. SHE'S COMING TO CHECK OUT THE SCHOOL.
SHE'LL BE STAYING WITH US FOR A WEEK.
WHAT !? SERIOUSLY !?


IF SHE COMES HERE, I'LL BE THE "POOR THING"!!
. . . . ?

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
YEAH.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS—

SHE GETS IN TO TOKYO STATION AT NOON. WILL YOU GO PICK HER UP, YAMATO-KUN?

NO WAY !!



I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS.
AH...

...THAT I USED TO LIKE HER...AND THAT SHE TOTALLY REJECTED ME.
I CAN'T TELL THEM...

STOP PICKING ON ME, GOD!
SANYO BULLET TRAIN ENTRANCE
NOZOMI TRAIN 12:02
HIKARI TRAIN 12:51
GOD! WHY NOW? RIGHT AFTER THE WHOLE THING WITH HONOKA-CHAN YESTERDAY...

COME ON. YOU TWO HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE YOU WERE KIDS.
WHY ARE YOU BEING SO DIFFICULT?

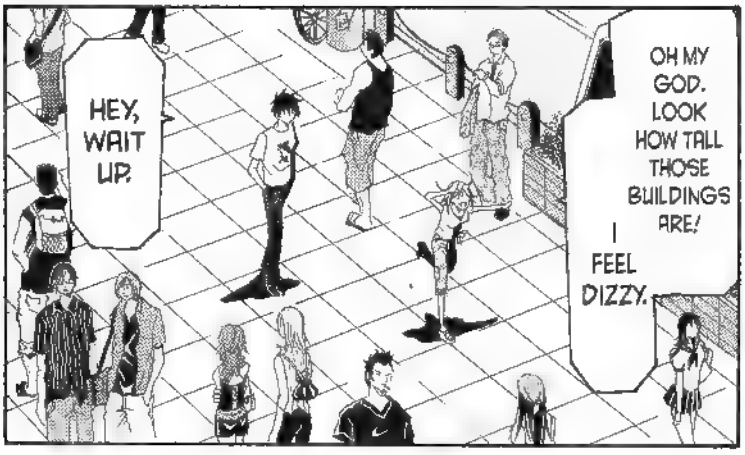
SWAP
CHATTER
13
12
CHATTER
I DON'T EVEN KNOW . . .
8/14 MON
PM 12:12 09
. . . WHAT TO SAY TO HER . . .
SHE'S LATE . . .
I HOPE SHE DIDN'T MISS THE TRAIN . . .
RING RING
WHAAA!!
HUH?
A-HAHAHAH!! I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOU, YAMATO-KUN!!

LONG TIME NO SEE !!
DID I SURPRISE YOU?
S-SAKI.
GEEZ, IF YOU WERE HERE WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOME-THING?
I WASN'T SURE IT WAS YOU.
BUT THEN I SAW THOSE SPACED-OUT EYES AND I FIGURED IT HAD TO BE YOU.
MAN, YOU'VE GOT A THICK-ASS HIROSHIMA ACCENT.

M- MAYBE YOU SHRANK.
YOU LOOK TALLER. HAVE YOU GROWN?
A- HAHA !
.....
THIS IS TOTALLY AWKWARD... AS ALWAYS...
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT !!
YOU SHOT ME DOWN, REMEM- BER?
YOINK
YOINK

BECAUSE, WE'RE GOING SIGHT-SEEING AND . . .
. . . THEY'RE TOO HEAVY TO CARRY.

HEY. DO THEY HAVE COIN LOCKERS HERE? I WANT TO LEAVE MY LUGGAGE.
HUH? WHY?

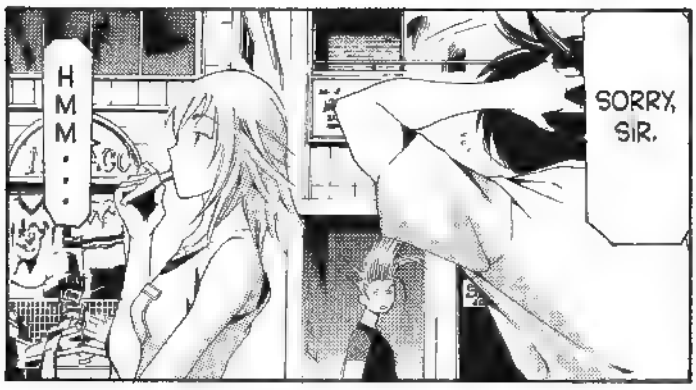

HEY, WAIT UP.
OH MY GOD. LOOK HOW TALL THOSE BUILDINGS ARE! I FEEL DIZZY.

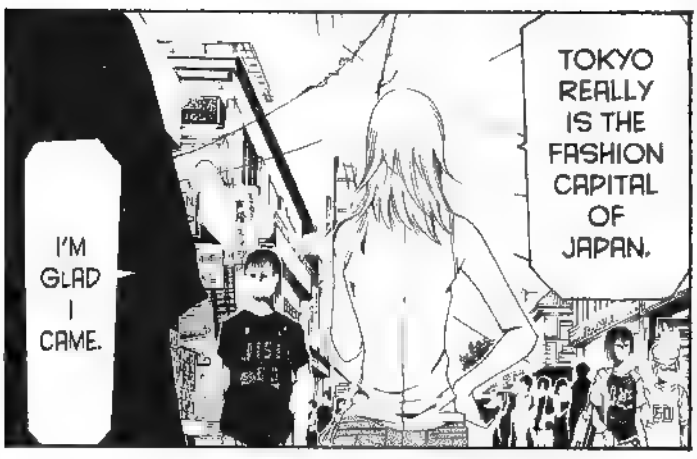
WHAT THE HELL? NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE HER AROUND TOKYO?

NOPE... IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
HEY. ARE THEY HAVING A FESTIVAL TODAY OR SOMETHING? WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE?

HUH?

I FIGURED WE SHOULD START N SHIBUYA. WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO?
HOW ABOUT THE 109 MALL?
I-I DON'T KNOW.
NO WAY! WOW. I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE ALL GOING !!?
NO, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF SHIBUYA ALREADY. LET'S GO TO HARAJUKU!!
WHAT? JUST PICK ONE PLACE.
NO! I WANT TO GO TO BOTH!
HUH!? YOU DON'T WANT TO GO SHOPPING OR ANYTHING ?
NO, THAT'S OKAY. I WANNA GO TO DAIKAN-YAMA AFTER THIS.


HMM...
SORRY, SIR.


I'M GLAD I CAME.
TOKYO REALLY IS THE FASHION CAPITAL OF JAPAN.

IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING? CHECKING OUT THE FASHION?
HUH?

HEY, DON'T POINT !!
OH MY GOD! CHECK THAT GUY OUT! WHAT A CRAZY HAIR-STYLE!!

AH... DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
I'M HOPING TO GET A JOB IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY.
Café Du Noa
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO TOKYO.
I MEAN, IT IS THE FASHION MECCA, RIGHT?
HUH? YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT.
I TOLD EVERY-BODY BUT YOU!!
OH, UH, OKAY...
YOU'RE REALLY JUST HERE 'CAUSE YOU'RE HOPING TO SPOT A CELEBRITY OR SOME-THING, RIGHT?
YOU ALWAYS WERE A GROUPIE.
HUH?

WHAT? YOU COULD HEAR MY ACCENT?
A-HAHA!! NOW YOUR HIROSHIMA ACCENT IS STARTING TO COME BACK!
YEAH! TOTALLY !!
GOOD!
I WAS WORRIED YOU'D LOST YOUR ACCENT. I WAS KINDA SAD.
WELL, YOURS IS RUBBING OFF ON ME THAT'S ALL...
I-I DIDN'T LOSE IT.
OH YEAH, I REMEMBER NOW.

W-
WHAT?
GLARE
WHO KNOWS HOW MANY GUYS HAVE FALLEN FOR THAT.
SHE ALWAYS SAYS CUTE THINGS LIKE THAT WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.

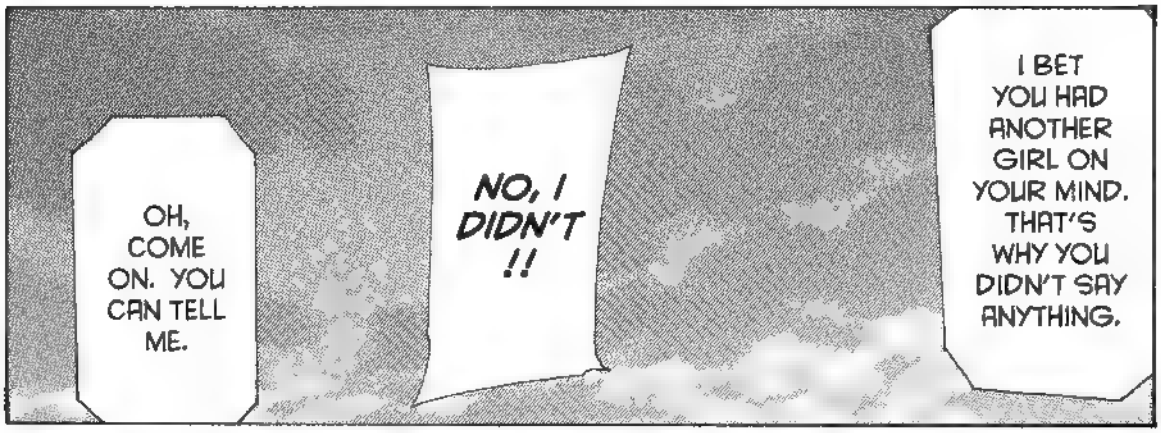
YOU KEEP ADDING NEW PLACES!!
OKAY. LET'S GO TO DAIKANYAMA NEXT.
...AND TO KEBUKURO AFTER THAT!!
NOTHING. LET'S GO!!

I JUST THOUGHT THAT'D BE A NICE WAY TO FINISH MY TOUR.
THE KAMINARI GATE WAS SO COOL!!
PHEW, I'M BEAT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WANTED TO END IN ASAKUSA.

AH... BY THE WAY, YAMATO-KUN.
HUH?
SNIFF
DID YOU JUST GET DUMPED?
W-WHAT!?
N-NO!
DON'T LIE TO ME WHEN I SAW YOU STANDING THERE AT THE STATION TODAY, YOU HAD THE EYES OF A DEAD ROTTING MACKEREL.

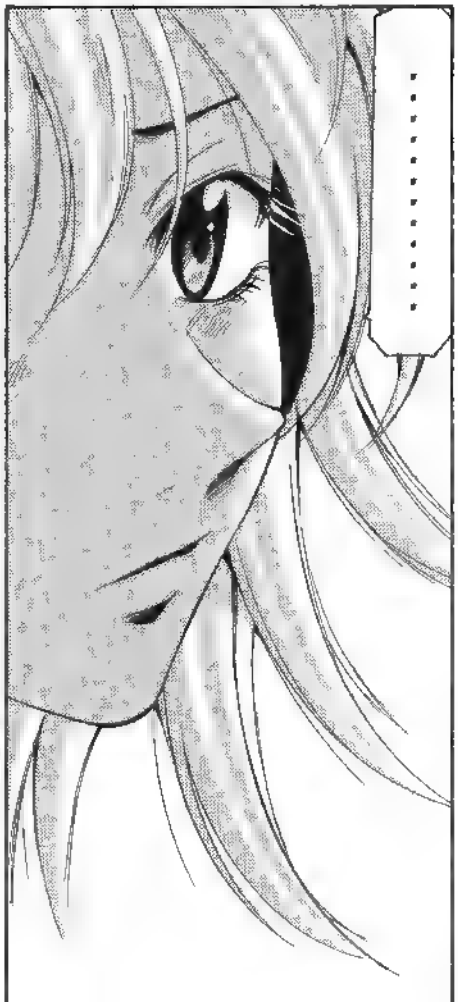
UH-HUH...
SO THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS THINKING.
CALPIS
R-ROTTING MACKEREL?
YEAH! THAT'S EXACTLY HOW YOU LOOKED WHEN I TURNED YOU DOWN.
S-SHUT UP. SH-SHE DIDN'T DUMP ME.
EYE CLINIC
SO? WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT? I'LL BE A GOOD LISTENER! THINK OF ME AS YOUR BIG SISTER.
OKAY?
OKAY?
WHAT? YOU'VE ALWAYS LIKED HER? THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?
B-BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS. SO I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO SAY IT.
IT'S JUST THAT, THERE'S THIS GIRL I'VE ALWAYS LIKED, BUT I NEVER TOLD HER HOW I FELT.
AND I JUST FOUND OUT THAT SHE HAS A NEW BOY-FRIEND.
HUH?
WH-WHAT?

WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU . . .
. . . DIDN'T REALLY LIKE HER ALL THAT MUCH.
WHAT!? WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
ONCE YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND . . .
YOU ALWAYS FOLLOW THROUGH, NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY ELSE SAYS.
BECAUSE, I KNOW HOW YOU ARE.
. . . . . .
WELL . . . YEAH . . .


I BET YOU HAD ANOTHER GIRL ON YOUR MIND. THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
NO, I DIDN'T !!
OH, COME ON. YOU CAN TELL ME.

AH... WAS IT ME!?
WHAT? YEAH RIGHT . . .

. . . !
W-WHAT'S WITH HER EXPRESSION?
SHOCK


. . . . . .

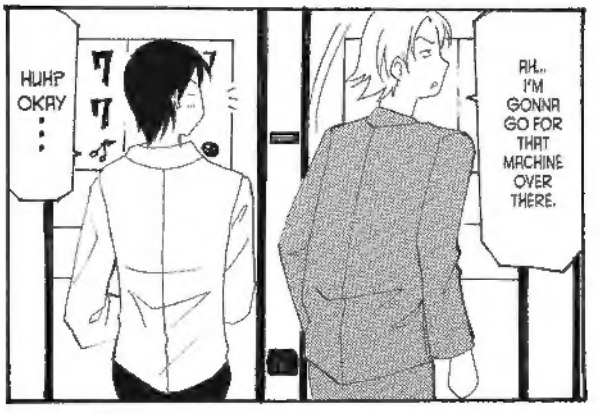
ALL RIGHT, THEN . . .
AH . . . I-I MEAN

I WAS WORRIED YOU WERE GONNA TRY TO HOOK UP WITH ME AGAIN. I DON'T THINK I COULD HANDLE HEARING YOU STUTTER OUT ANOTHER STUPID COME ON.
THANK GOD.
I MEAN SERIOUSLY, WHAT WAS THAT?
"W-W-W-WILL YOU BE MY G-G-G-GIRL-FRIEND"?
WHAT!?
GEEZ! ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME!!?
A-HA! THERE'S THAT HI-ROSHIMA ACCENT AGAIN!!
DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO RUB IT IN!
ASAHI-YU BATHS

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 15

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

NO. 32 "INFIDELITY"



CALM DOWN.
YEP, EVEN WHEN HE'S PLAYING SLOTS, HE'S A MASTER OF INFIDELITY.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO OVER THERE!!!
AH...!! LOOK!! THAT MACHINE JUST HIT THE JACK-POT!!

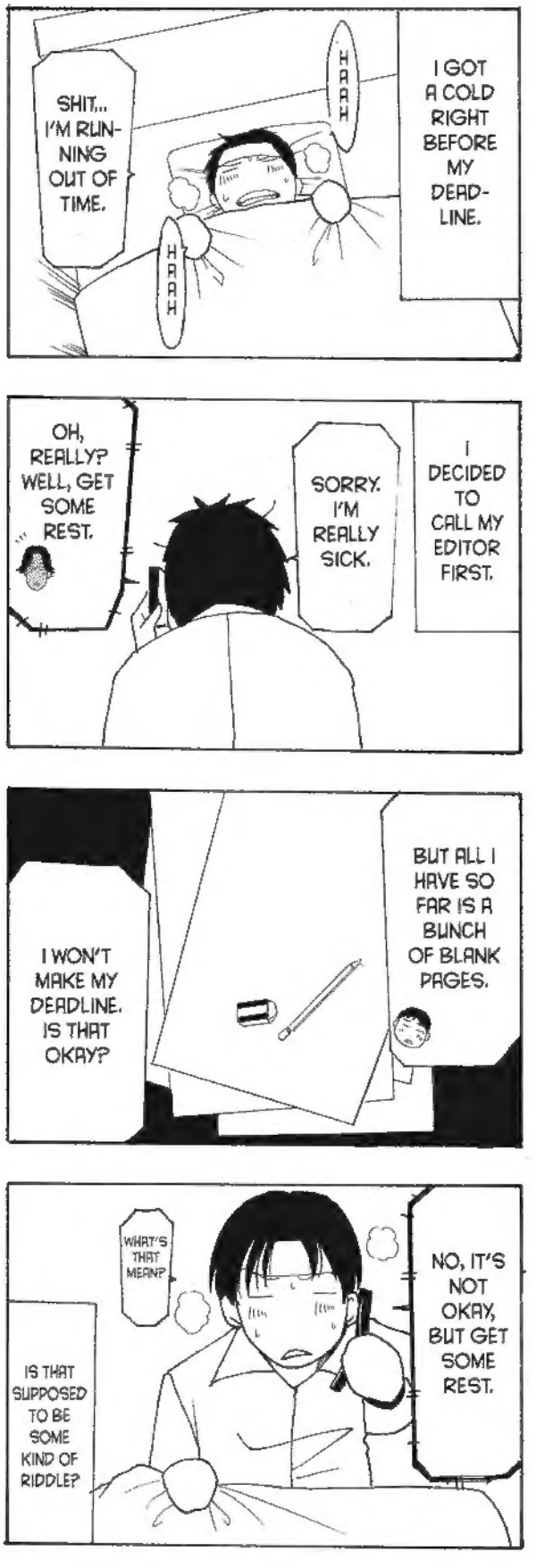
SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

NO. 33 "A TOUGH EDITOR"

I DON'T KNOW. THE STORY IS A LITTLE PREDICT-ABLE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THESE STORY-BOARDS?
MY EDITOR S-KI-SAN . . .
HIS COMMENT WAS RIGHT ON.
SHOCK...
LOOKS LIKE YOU DIDN'T PUT TOO MUCH TIME INTO THESE.
AH... BUT HOW?
TRY DOING A STORY THAT'S A LITTLE LESS PREDICT-ABLE.
AND MAKE IT A BIT MORE INTEREST-ING!!
AH... SO THAT'S ALL ON ME, HUH?
HE REALLY PUTS HIS WRITERS THROUGH THE WRINGER.
I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.

SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER

NO. 34 "THE RIDDLE"


SHIT... I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
HAAH
HAAH
I GOT A COLD RIGHT BEFORE MY DEADLINE.
OH, REALLY? WELL, GET SOME REST.
SORRY. I'M REALLY SICK.
I DECIDED TO CALL MY EDITOR FIRST.
I WON'T MAKE MY DEADLINE. IS THAT OKAY?
BUT ALL I HAVE SO FAR IS A BUNCH OF BLANK PAGES.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF RIDDLE?
NO, IT'S NOT OKAY, BUT GET SOME REST.

Suzuka 14

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